Christian Courier

A REFORMED WEEKLY

JANUARY 27, 1995/No. 2429

Korea becomes world's largest exporter of Bibles

Alan Doerksen

TORONTO — The Republic of Korea (South Korea) has become the world's largest exporter of Bibles, according to the Canadian Bible Society. In 1993, the Korean Bible Society (KBS) printed 7.7 million Bibles and New Testaments, 4.7 million of which were shipped overseas.

The KBS also prints one quarter of the Canadian Bible Society's Bibles and other materials. The main reasons for this is "it's getting more expensive to print Scriptures," says Barbara Walkden, director of ministry funding for the Canadian Bible Society. Korea has "the advantage of good paper prices," and Korean paper quality is very good. Paper used by KBS is either made in Korea or Japan from pulp imported from Canada, according to Walkden.

Another reason to print Bibles in Korea is that the price of labor is cheaper, says Walkden. But it's "not a slave-labor situation," she emphasizes.

Efficient system

Last July, Walkden had a chance to visit Korea as part of a global taskforce on fundraising for the Canadian Bible Society. While in Korea, she visited KBS's printing facilities there. Most of the printing is done at a large company in Seoul that KBS has been working with for about 60 years. Walkden comments that the workers "worked long hours, but they seemed relatively satisfied... the working environment's good."

KBS has used the same bindery for 30 years. Both the bindery and the printing company operate almost 24 hours a day, according to Walkden. She describes KBS's distribution system as "extremely efficient." Orders for Bibles come into the

See **KOREAN** *page 2...*

BARBARA WALKDEN

Top left: A worker at one of the Korean Bible Society's printing presses in Seoul. Bottom right: Korean workers at KBS's bindery.

B.C. tries out traditional teacher-directed schools

How Christian can these schools be?

James Kwantes

SURREY, B.C. — When the Surrey Traditional school opened, its emphasis on discipline, back-to-basics education, and parent/teacher ties attracted a lot of media attention.

It also attracted hundreds of children, many of them the sons and daughters of Christian parents. Now, parents in at least a dozen B.C. cities are actively lobbying for traditional schools in their communities.

A public school, Surrey Traditional is fully funded by the provincial government. Children (and teachers) wear a school uniform, and teachers expect a high standard of behavior from kids.

The school uses more of a teacher-directed, traditional approach to education than the child-centred, progressive approach of most of the province's public schools.

The Vancouver-area school had a waiting list of 183 at the end of September and currently has 207 children enrolled.

Liz Robertson helped organize the Surrey school and now serves as the chairperson of its parent advisory council. She says it started because parents in Surrey were not satisfied with the quality of education being offered by existing public schools.

"Parents were concerned about inconsistencies in methodology, and felt that their children were not mastering basic skills in the public school," said Robertson. She says the traditional school uses sequential learning and more structured teaching methods. It also encourages strong parent/teacher relations.

Respect for beliefs

This last tribute is what attracts many Christian parents to the idea of traditional school. Heather Stilwell, former CHP leader, also helped organize the school and sends her three youngest children to it. She says Surrey Traditional is far more receptive to parental involvement than public schools she has dealt with.

"The concerns of parents are wanted and welcomed at Surrey Traditional," Stilwell says. "In the public system, I would go to the teacher with a concern and it was almost like I was speaking a different language."

While the traditional school does not have a Christian curriculum, Stilwell says it contains mechanisms that ensure Christian beliefs are respected. "We have asked for and gotten balance in the area of creation/evolution, for example," she says.

Finances are another reason many Christian parents send their kids to a traditional public school instead of a Christian school. While most independent schools in British Columbia receive 50 per cent government funding, traditional schools get full government funding.

Stilwell pointed out that Christians already have financial commitments to their churches. "The tax situation is getting worse and worse, so the need for schools like this one is not going to decrease."

Traditional does not equal Christian

In the November newsletter of the Society for Christian Schools in B.C., Society education co-ordinator John Vanderhoek acknowledged the Surrey school's popularity among some Christians. However, he said that parents who equate traditional schooling with Christianity are making an error in judgment.

"Because it is rooted in a non-Christian philosophy, traditional education is no more Christian than that which is called progressive. Uniforms don't help children learn discipleship and a disciplined atmosphere could well be one of fear rather than of peace and learning," Vanderhoek wrote. "Public schools cannot teach that Christ the Lord is King and Redeemer because they must remain religiously neutral and unbiased, and that's an impossibility.... Schooling which sees creation, sin, redemption and hope from a biblical perspective

See **INVOLVEMENT** *p. 2...*

In this Issue

Russia rises from its ruins.....p. 10
Don't judge by appearance.....p. 11

LIBRARY REDEEMER COLLEGE
777 HWY #53 EAST
ANCASTER, ON
Dec 94
L9K 1J4

REDEEMER COLLEGE LIBRARY
ROUTE
CHRISTIAN COURIER
PER/BX/9401/.C36

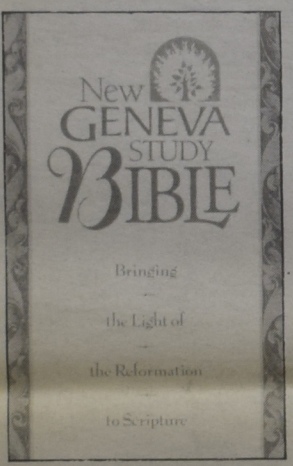
News

Reformed scholars publish New Geneva Study Bible

Alan Doerksen

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. — After more than five years of work and a few obstacles, a group of 55 Reformed scholars is ready to publish the New Geneva Study Bible.

This is "the first time Reformed scholars have come together" to produce such a study Bible, says Jim Fraser, director of ministry services for Ligonier Canada. Ligonier Ministries, a non-profit association with its head office in Orlando, Florida, is marketing the study



Bible. Dr. R.C. Sproul, president of Ligonier, is also general editor of the new study Bible, which is being published by the Nashville-based publisher Thomas Nelson.

The scholars, known collectively as the Foundation for Reformation, are mostly American and Canadian, although a few are from Austria, Britain and Australia.

Originally, "these scholars tried to do this independently," says Fraser, but they "ran into roadblocks" financially. They had planned to use the New International Version of the Bible, but later decided not to because of the expense involved to get the rights, and also because "some people were criticizing the NIV within the scholarly community," says Fraser.

Sproul has commented that the NIV was not used because it is "a complete departure from traditional expression." The New American Standard Bible was also rejected because of "its woodenness," says Sproul. Instead, he says, the New King James Version was used "because of its winsome and balanced text, its faithfulness to traditional expression and its readability."

Fraser comments that Sproul was also on the steering committee of the NKJV. That may have been another reason for the NKJV's use as the new study Bible.

The project began "roughly five years ago," says Fraser. "It originated in the United States." The idea for the project came from Sproul in conversation with the Ligonier board.

Christian scholars with a Reformed perspective were contacted to work on the project.

Of the 55 scholars involved, five come from Canadian seminaries. They include Regent College's Dr. J.I. Packer, and Dr. Marion Taylor of Toronto's Wycliffe College.

Taylor wrote comments on the books of Hosea, Joel and Esther for the project. After receiving a letter asking her to write the notes, she worked on her own and sent her manuscript to Dr. Bruce Waltke of Regent College, who was the project's Old Testament editor.

LIGONIER CANADA PHOTOS

The New Geneva Study Bible's editorial staff. Left to right, Bruce Waltke, J.I. Packer, Edmund Clowney, R.C. Sproul, Moises Silva, James Boice, Roger Nicole, Luder Whitlock.

"I never met with anybody," comments Taylor, who was sent guidelines to work with.

Evangelical Reformed emphasis

The new study Bible is different from others because it is "distinctively Reformed," says Taylor. Other study Bibles have a more fundamental or dispensational point of view, she adds.

Another of the scholars, Simon Kistemaker of Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MI, agrees that the NGSB "has definitely a Reformed emphasis." It has been written for "general readers," rather than only scholars, he says.

Fraser comments that the study Bible is meant for "all serious students of Scripture, from an evangelical Reformed position."

The NGSB has distinctive features such as sidebars detailing such basic Reformed doctrines as "definite redemption."

The NGSB takes its name from the original Geneva Bible, which was published about 1560 by Reformed scholars based in Geneva, Switzerland. It became very popular in the late 1500s, but declined in popularity once the King James Version was published in 1611.

International appeal

"The name New Geneva Study Bible was selected in order to demonstrate the desire to recover the influence of a Reformed study Bible," writes Luder Whitlock, one of the project's scholars, who teaches at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MI. "It was an essential step in carrying forward the vision for a new Reformation," he writes in another Ligonier publication.

"The name was also selected with the desire of rekindling that same international outreach that spread from Geneva in the 16th century. Since Geneva is still well known and respected internationally, it seemed to be a logical choice."

The NGSB will be available this March in English. It is already being translated into Russian and German, and discussions are under way to translate it into other languages such as Chinese, Korean, Spanish and French, according to Whitlock.

Korean Bible Society prints Scriptures in 350 languages

...continued from page 1

KBS main office in Seoul in the morning, are sent by computer to an automated warehouse by midday, and during the afternoon the orders are filled.

KBS first started to print Scriptures for distribution to other countries in the 1970s, and now handles almost one quarter of the total world production needs of the United Bible Societies. KBS now prints Scripture products for export in 350 languages.

The Canadian Bible Society has both English and French products printed in Korea. Besides the 25 per cent that is printed in Korea, CBS has roughly 25 per cent of its materials printed in Canada, 25 per cent in the U.S.A. and 25 percent in other countries.

Inspiring enthusiasm

Over the past few decades, Korea has experienced phenomenal growth in its Christian community. This has been reflected in the rapid expansion of KBS's work in Korea. In Walkden's opinion, one of the main reasons for the rapid growth of Korea's Christian community is that Korean Christians have "a commitment to evangelize the community at large. Everyone seems to participate in that."

"Koreans are remarkable people and this is especially so with the Christian community," Walkden adds. "Their enthusiasm to share the Word of God is inspiring. This vitality has helped to bring KBS to the level of Bible production that exists today."

The first Christian missionary arrived in Korea in 1884. Bible Society work began in Korea around the turn of the century, and KBS was officially established in 1940.

INDONESIA 1995

Our 4th Annual Tour with Hans & Corrie Meiboom

You are invited to join Hans and Corrie for this fabulous tour of Indonesia. You will be touring on Java, Sulawesi and Bali. Depart Toronto March 30, stopover in Holland and depart on April 3 for Jakarta. Return April 27. On return you can stay over in Holland for Liberation celebrations. A Trip of a Lifetime. Can join from any Canadian city. If you are interested phone or write:

Hans Meiboom, 1 Bayside Dr., Carrying Place, ON K0K 1L0
Phone: (613) 392-8821

Travel arranged by:

VERSTRAETE TRAVEL SERVICE Ltd.

Opinion

The Flesh-eating disease, Strain B

Bill Dykstra

There has been a lot of media attention on the "flesh-eating disease" that cost Lucien Bouchard his leg and almost his life recently. It is a frightful malady. Imagine these little bugs devouring human bodies at the rate of one inch per hour. But although the disease has become more frequent of late, it is still very rare and not a big threat to society.

Unfortunately, that is not the case with a far more common people-eating virus which is spreading rapidly through the country. It is highly contagious and spreading quickly from province to province. The main carriers are federal and provincial governments. I'm referring to the gambling bug. By now most Canadians have it in their systems, causing them to shell out various amounts of cash for lottery tickets weekly.

High-tech gambling

Governments are raking in big bucks from it all. But not content with lotteries, they are now branching out into casinos (Ontario has one in Windsor and is planning another in the North). On top of that, several provinces are installing video lottery terminals (VLTs), which are like high-tech slot machines.

A lot of people regard these things as harmless, though potentially expensive, fun. But the fact is that gambling is addictive. Far too many people waste money on lotteries and casinos that should be spent on worthwhile family needs or charity. And a good number of people get so hooked that they literally blow all their earnings, run up huge debts, and even resort to crime to support their gambling habit. VLTs, especially, appear to have this effect. Some call them the crack cocaine of gambling.

Government addicted too

Obviously, the players are not the only ones who get hooked. The governments themselves have become junkies — they can no longer resist the temptation to grab such easy money without having to raise taxes. And once the millions come in, *they* are hooked. To ever get rid of these "games" will cost the government far too much in lost profits, no matter how many lives get ruined. So instead the government hypocritically sets up a toll-free help line for problem gamblers.

What can we do? I suggest two things: 1. Make it a matter of principle never to buy lottery tickets, play the VLTs, or frequent a casino. 2. Tell our government leaders as clearly and bluntly and often as possible that these "voluntary taxes" are immoral, do serious harm to people and must be scrapped.

That governments should allow their need for revenue to set aside conscience and seduce citizens into destructive habits is shameful. In Ezekiel 34 some of God's hardest words of condemnation are reserved for political and spiritual "shepherds" who exploit the "sheep" instead of feeding and protecting them.

P.S. The Committee for Contact with the Government of the Council of Christian Reformed Churches in Canada has produced a helpful pamphlet called "Canadian Lotteries: a Bad Bet." Share it with politicians and others.

Bill Dykstra is pastor of Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Newmarket, Ont.

Involvement of Christians in schools provokes criticism

...continued from page 1

provides children with choice education."

The involvement of Christians in organizing and volunteering at the Surrey school provoked criticism from the local and provincial teacher's federations. The involvement of Stilwell, who is well-known for her CHP and pro-life affiliations, prompted a *Vancouver Sun* editorial to call the school an "appropriation of the public system for a small group's private beliefs."

John Pippus, an education activist working with parents who want to set up traditional schools in other B.C. communities, agrees that there is a strong Christian component among parents at Surrey Traditional. He feels that Christian concerns are as legitimate as any other ones.

"A number of parents who sent their kids to the Surrey school were not comfortable with some of the values that the public school was venturing into, like native spirituality and homosexuality as acceptable practice," Pippus said. "If we're going to make accommodations for Sikhs and Muslims, we should also accommodate kids from a strong Christian background."

New Age thought

Jan Gardner is a Surrey parent who transferred two of her children from a public school to Surrey Traditional. As well as being concerned about the lack of a consistent academic structure in the public school, Gardner was also disturbed by some of the underlying philosophies behind the curriculum.

"I did some research into the sources for the public school curriculum and found a lot of New Age and Buddhist thought there," she said. "I realize that kids at the traditional school are learning the same core curriculum, but teachers are more sensitive to Christian perspectives at Surrey Traditional."

Another quality that attracted the Gardners to the back-to-basics school was the openness of teachers to parental involvement. "In a lot of schools, you feel like teachers are maintaining barriers between the teacher and parent," Gardner noted. "In this school, the barriers have come right down."

Gardner admits that she and her husband looked into sending their children to a Christian school. But they were turned off when some of the concerns they raised were not addressed by the school. "As a parent, I thought, why would I pay this money if I would not have more of a say?"

JAMES KWANTES

A classroom in SurreyTraditional Public School.

While some Christian parents would hesitate to send their children to a school that does not feature Christ-centred education, Gardner has nothing but good things to say about Surrey Traditional.

"I believe it was the will of God that this school started, and I don't say that lightly," says Gardner, who is active in an Alliance church. "I'm very thankful for it."

Christian Courier

An independent weekly with a Reformed perspective.
Member of Canadian Church Press and Evangelical Press Association.
Canada mail: Publications Mail Registration No. 0451. Postage paid at St. Catharines, Ont. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Road, St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1
U.S. mail: Christian Courier (USPS 518-090). Second-class postage paid at Lewiston, NY. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, Box 110, Lewiston, NY 14092.

Subscriptions:	**Canada** (GST incl.)	**U.S.A.** (GST free)
six months	$22.25	$18.00 U.S.
one year	$39.50	$32.00 U.S.
two years	$74.00	$60.00 U.S.
three years	$111.00	$90.00 U.S.
overseas one year	$125.00 airmail $75.00 surface mail	

Advertising deadlines: display advertising: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.; classified advertising: Thursday, 8:30 a.m. All deadlines are for the following week's issue. See classified pages for more details.
(ISSN 1192-3415) Published weekly on Fridays except for June 2, July 7, 21, Aug. 4, 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 20 and Dec. 29 by Calvinist Contact Publishing Limited.
All correspondence should be addressed to: 4-261 Martindale Road, St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1, Tel.: 905-682-8311 or Fax: 905-682-8313
PRINTED IN CANADA
This tabloid contains recycled paper.

Holland America Line
Luxury Cruises at Affordable Prices

Special Group Offers
- Mar. 18 Westerdam - Eastern Carib.
- Apr. 09 Noordam - Western Carib.
- Jun. 06 Statendam - Alaska Inside Passage
- Jul. 08 N. Amsterdam - Alaska Inside Passage
- Jul. 09 Rotterdam - Alaska Glacier Route

We are offering special group dates & rates.
Talk to our cruise experts. They have a deal for you.

VERSTRAETE TRAVEL & CRUISES
36 Secord Dr. St. Catharines (905) 934-4414
14845 Yonge St Aurora (416) 969-8100 (Toronto area)
Long distance? Call 1-800-565-9267

Editorial

It's easy to figure out what belongs to God

A year ago the *London Free Press* reprinted an editorial I had written on a tendency among North American Christians to reduce Christianity to a personal relationship to God. I had recounted a visit to a Christian bookstore and had written: "There is very little on these shelves that draws you into bigger issues such as social justice, legal ethics, responsible economics, the meaning of money, the relation between politics and principles, the importance of city landscaping, the commercialization of sports, to name only a few."

A London reader responded to this article in a letter to the editor of the *London Free Press*. His letter merely affirmed my worst suspicions. He wrote:

"If he [that's me] really understood the true meaning of the Bible, he would understand that the whole book is written concerning only two things, and they are Christ and the church.

"Unfortunately, the vast majority of Christians are so spiritually selfish, and so distracted from God's central purpose, that they are too impotent to be useful for spiritual warfare.

Jesus had the Pharisees pinned down by the iron grip of his much greater knowledge and integrity.

"This man [that's me again] is saying we should broaden the size to other issues to distract and water down God's purpose even further [I didn't say that, but I guess the London reader felt I might as well have said it].

"Leave economics, legal ethics, city landscaping, politics, sports, music and commerce to the lobby groups. Let us render the things that are Caesar's to Caesar, and the things that are God's to God."

A 'gotcha' question

The last sentence takes the cake, I believe. I'm not talking about the London reader's idea of leaving city landscaping and music, for example, to the lobby groups, though I would decline the invitation to attend a concert put on by a lobby group. My main problem is with his interpretation of Jesus' words: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." There is a subtle meaning in these words of Jesus that, in all likelihood, the Pharisees did not miss but the reader who responded to my column did.

Jesus responded to a trick question by his 'loyal' opposition. The question was whether or not Jews should pay tax to Caesar. I wonder how long it had taken them to cook up that admittedly clever question. If Jesus said, Yes, pay taxes, he could be accused by the Jews of being in cahoots with the Romans; if he said, No, don't bother, he could be charged by the Romans with instigating a tax revolt.

A knock-out answer

So Jesus went them one better. He asked whose image was imprinted on their coins. "Caesar's," replied the Pharisees. And then came the amazingly profound answer the London reader quoted in his reply to my column.

In other words, said Jesus, if you don't mind receiving Caesar's money and dealing with the Romans (you can bet your last shekel that the Pharisees were right up the Roman armpit when there was money to be made), why is it a problem giving it back to them?

He's saying more, though. He's also saying that the state has a right to claim money for the services it renders, even if the state is imposed on them through conquest.

But, he's saying even more than *that* when he adds: Give to God what belongs to God. Now any decent Jew knew that "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). The Pharisees knew it, and they were guilty of withholding plenty from the Lord. That's why Jesus calls them hypocrites. Jesus had the Pharisees pinned down by the iron grip of his much greater knowledge and integrity. His answer not only broke open the trap they had set for him, it made them walk into his trap. Not only did Jesus answer their question, he exposed them.

The real test

I don't think the London reader is in the same boat as the Pharisees. At least, I have no reason to think he's a hypocrite. But he should not play fast and loose with Matthew 22:21. That text does not say that most things in life belong to Caesar and the world, and that the rest — Christ and the church — belong to God. That's missing the most profound and most cutting point of Jesus' answer.

I don't want to play one-upmanship with the London reader. I know, and we all know, that the true test of giving to God what belongs to God does not lie in our theories. But it helps to keep our understanding of what God reveals to us as clear as possible. A reluctant heart is one thing; clouded vision just compounds the misery.

Not so hard

I know it's not always easy to figure out what belongs to Caesar. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation wants me to fax to friends five copies of a statement that says: "Mr. Prime Minister, repeat after me: 'I promised Canadians I wouldn't raise taxes.'" I don't recall Prime Minister Jean Chretien making a "read my lips" statement to that effect, but that's beside the point. I don't automatically buy what an 'anti-tax' federation tells me. But the question of what the government *can* demand is a valid one.

The other question, the one that asks what belongs to God, is easy to figure out. Everything!

BW

Christian Courier

Formerly known as Calvinist Contact
Founded in 1945

An independent weekly that seeks the truth, care and rule of Jesus Christ as it
— reports on significant happenings in the Christian community and the world,
— expresses opinions that are infused by Scripture and Spirit and rooted in a Reformed perspective,
— provides opportunities for contact and discussion for the Christian community.

Editor: Bert Witvoet; **General Manager:** Stan de Jong; **Associate Editor:** Marian Van Til; **Staff Reporter:** Alan Doerksen
Regional Reporters:
Barend Biesheuvel, Montreal, P.Q.; Anne Hutten, Kentville, N.S .; James Kwantes, Vancouver, B.C.; Gordon Legge, Calgary, Alta.; Jane Ouwehand, Agassiz, B.C.; John Pater, Edmonton, Alta.; Robert VanderVennen, Toronto, Ont.
Circulation Manager: Grace Bowman; **Advertising & Typesetting:** Ingrid Torn; **Layout & Design:** Alan Doerksen
Proofreading: Joanne Keogh

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD:
Robert Bernhardt, Margaret Griffioen-Drenth, Nandy Heule, Anne Hutten, Sheena Jamieson, Nicholas B. Knoppers, Jacob Kuntz, Dennis Van Staalduinen, William Van Huizen, Nelly Westerhoff.

The publication of comments, opinions or advertising does not imply agreement or endorsement by either *Christian Courier* or the publisher:
Calvinist Contact Publishing Limited
4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, Ont.
L2W 1A1, Canada
Tel: (905) 682-8311 Fax: (905) 682-8313

Letters

Amway is just a business

As a group of independent Amway distributors (not salespersons for the Amway corporation), we would like to address some of the statements made in your P&M column of Oct. 7, 1994. We empathize with the grandparents, as we ourselves had the same concerns. However, after in-depth investigation of the Amway business opportunity, we found that's just what it is — a business.

The first point we would like to address is your title, "It's the poor that give, not the rich." Granted, the poor are capable of giving equally as well as the rich, but let us not question the ability of the rich to "give" from their hearts to the Lord.

You need the rich

We do agree that Amway is not a Christian organization — corporations are not people and cannot be labelled Christian or non-Christian. However, we are affiliated with some very strong Christian businesspeople.

A quote from "Promises to Keep — The Amway Phenomenon and How it Works" by Charles Paul Conn may help: "Rich De Vos probably says it best: 'Some seem to believe that if the rich have less the poor will have more. That is not the case. If those who have material wealth have less, then everyone has less. If you want the caboose to catch up with the locomotive, you don't do it by stopping the train.'

"Another point should be made before rushing to convict Amway on a 'materialism' charge. However much one hears of yachts and diamond rings, most of those Amway bonus dollars are spent in less exotic ways. The majority of Amway distributors have not yet reached that rarefied level and are happy to cash their Amway cheques to buy shoes for the kids, pay the extra bills that always appear at the end of the month, and finance the occasional night out on the town.

"People do get rich in Amway, but for every one who does, there are many more who simply get comfortable. And there is a lot to be said for that."

On the matter of time management, our question is this: Why is it that when children are left in childcare (usually in their waking hours) while parents are working in traditional jobs and for business trips, that it is accepted, while when children of Amway distributors are left with sitters in the evening (in their sleeping hours), and for the occasional weekend, that is not accepted?

Risk-free business

To address the third panellist who knew several persons who were stuck with products that they could ill afford, another quote from Paul Conn's book: "Designed as it is to be a business within reach of people without up-front capital to invest, the Amway plan makes it possible for a distributor to get started with literally zero dollars tied up in product inventory."

Also, from the Amway "Business Reference Manual": "The 'Buy-Back' Rule in the Amway Rules of Conduct protects Amway distributors against inventory-loading and assures that no one who elects to become an Amway distributor, but who later decides to relinquish his or her business will be left with unwanted Amway products, literature, or sales aids."

Amway has made this business risk free. Because of the way the Amway "Sales & Marketing Plan" works, it ensures that before a distributor can make cents, he or she must first help another make dollars.

As independent distributors we are excited about the opportunity this business plan represents and, as such, why would we not want to share this with the people who are closest to us — friends and family?

As for being a customer, why would you not want to support family or friends when you are offered savings, a 100 per cent money-back guarantee, and an opportunity to buy the most environmentally friendly products available? Regarding your awkward feeling, please check inward.

We do respect your views and opinions, as do many others, but we ask that before you encourage or discourage people from becoming involved in any business please investigate thoroughly and with an open mind.

Jim and Sherri Van Ryn,
William and Christina Bezemer
Beamsville/Grimsby, Ont.

Don't 'demean' synod

The 15 retired CRC ministers were wrong in "condemning Synod 94's decision which continued to deny women the right to be ordained...." (CC Jan. 6, 1995).

As senior pastors they have set a bad example to the CRC rank-and-file men, women and children — by, in effect, demeaning, if not rejecting, the authority duly vested in the delegates who represent that CRC membership at synod.

This authority is not the tool of some self-serving, male bastion (a yearly nuisance from Grand Rapids) but, in fact, represents the real essence or glue of the denomination in North America. And it distinguishes us as church institution from most other churches. This is not to be taken lightly or "condemned."

In short, this action by 15 retired ministers is deeply regrettable, harmful, and goes squarely against what the CRC stands for.

Henry Lammers
St. Catharines, Ont.

Who signed what?

One of our readers asked us if we could, please, print the names of the 15 pastors who signed the open letter in protest to the Christian Reformed Synod of 1994.

Here they are: the revs. John Derksen, Charles Fennema, Jac. Geuzebroek, Dirk Habermehl, Gerrit Heersink, Nick Knoppers, Remkes Kooistra, Jacob Kuntz, Dick Los, Bastiaan Nederlof, Gerard Nonnekes, Gerard Ringnalda, Lammert Slofstra, Carl Tuyl and Peter Van Egmond.

Another reader asked why we did not print the whole text of the pastors' statement. Answer: We had just told the readers that we would discontinue discussions on the issue of women in office and we felt that printing the whole statement would just open the floodgates again.

Isn't it a relief to read letters to the editor about CLAC and the Christian schools for a change. And isn't it exhilarating to see that the level of this discussion is quite high.

Editor

50th Anniversary Rearview Mirror

The Christian Reformed Church synod became actively involved in settling post-war Dutch immigrants in Canada. The church tried to work with existing congregations of (earlier) immigrants to manage the incoming flow of newcomers.

From: The Canadian Calvinist Jan. 15, 1947:

IMMIGRATION

THE SYNODICAL COMMITTEE AT WORK. By this time, through the reading of the C.C. I am sure you all are well informed that the Synod of our Christian Reformed Church, last June appointed a committee for immigration to Canada, to give reliable information to prospective immigrants from the Netherlands, and guidance when they arrive at our shores. This committee met in Winnipeg, Manitoba, during September, while in December another meeting was held at Edmonton, Alberta. At these meetings our committee has made a fine start, but only a start, for our task is quite extensive. It will require much more work, before we are prepared and ready to receive and help incoming Hollanders. In this article we will try to give you some idea of the work and problems which our committee faces.

NEW FIELDS! What immigration really starts, say in '48 and '49, our committee is of the opinion, based on information received, that our different congregations can only absorb a small percentage, and we must already now look for new fields, suitable for future Reformed immigrants. How shall we tackle this job? Three new fields were mentioned at our last meeting—the Clay Belt in Northern Ontario, Peace River District in Alberta, and Central British Columbia. No doubt there are more. How will we be able to obtain reliable and trustworthy information about new fields? Our railroads and also the different Provincial governments have printed booklets and pictures and all sorts of statistics, on new districts, and we hope to make full use of all this.

HOW MUST WE FINANCE and settle immigrants when they arrive? This question was also discussed in general, and our committee fully agreed on the main lines. We will possibly propose to synod to give our committee mandate to ask all our churches in the U.S. and Canada for a free will offering to gather a fund of say $25,000.00 No doubt it will cost a considerable amount of money to defray the necessary expenses involved in this work.

However, we look to our groups and local societies to do the real work of finding places for our newcomers,—places to live, to work, to buy farms, and to help signing and making agreements of buying and so on. All necessary expenses made by groups or local societies in this work of assisting should be paid out of our general fund. When the time arrives, which I personally think is not far off, that we place immigrants in new territories, then our committee must face the necessity of appointing a full time field man to do this work.

Letters

Who will bell the cat of change?

Please permit me to briefly react to Adrian Peetoom's "misconceptions" in his article on Christian Schools in your January 6 issue.

Would the whole article not have been different, especially in its conclusion, if it had not joined the secular clamor for "rights"? Christian education is first (and last) a matter of duty, responsibility and calling. Any "rights" that can be claimed must be God-given. Other rights there are not.

I have tried to analyze and understand this statement of Peetoom's: "Schools *can no longer let* (stress added) parents have the prior right." What does "schools" mean here? The school board, elected and mandated by the parents, and "ultimately responsible to the parents" as Peetoom states clearly? How does that work? Does the board, mandated by the parents turn around and grant, withhold or take back "rights" from these parents? Or is it the teaching staff, appointed by the board on behalf of the parents, that does this? Are there any other authorities who can do this "letting," which could mean "bloodletting"?

Maybe the league of schools can do it, or the consistory. Maybe the philosophy of Dooyeweerd, which was "smashed" by Bruce Bokhout in the same issue? Or is it the CLAC now, "sovereign in its own sphere"?

What kind of model does brother Peetoom have in mind which causes him to write that it is "time to retire the wrong model" (all of a sudden "wrong," i.e, parental prior right?).

"It is time...," the article concludes. Instead, I think it's time to explain the word *let*, which may prove to be the key to this whole business of retiring the present model and replacing it with a newer, different, better model.

By the way, did I leave out the New-Age possibility that the *children* would "no longer let parents have prior rights"? They've done that already in the big system built upon "the rights of the child."

Gilbert VanDooren
Burlington, Ont.

'You made a convert'

I'd seen two or three reviews of the Pope's new book *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* (one of Jacques Ellul's books has a similar title, as if to suggest that where faith was in crisis during the period of the Reformation, today it seems to be hope). I'd even seen some brief quotations, mainly in the Catholic press.

But it wasn't until I saw the excellent review of George Vandervelde in Nov. 25's *Christian Courier* that I actually got interested in the book!

I do a fair amount of reading in the Church Fathers and Doctors — such as Augustine and Aquinas — while Newman and Chesterton also find a place, as well as Josef Pieper and Fritz Wilhelmsen. But I must confess, I didn't seriously take a look at John Paul's book until Mr. Vandervelde's article, at which point I bought it (as a gift for my daughter) and immediately started reading it myself.

It would appear you've made a convert! Well, during his Anglican days the famous Catholic journalist G.K. Chesterton said the true secret in creative journalism is to sit down and write an article on religion, and another on sports; and after addressing the envelopes to those subjects' respective newspapers, contrive to send the sports article to the religious paper, and vice versa.. In short, a lot depends on unpredictable context.

I'm impressed that a paper of *Christian Courier's* quality, and a national one at that, should emerge from little St. Catharines. And I'm equally impressed at its ecumenical aspect, something we Catholics have not always had as a strong suit — though I hear that our new Bishop O'Mara, past president of the Bishops of Ontario, is quite interested in such matters.

Joe G. Keogh
St. Catharines, Ont.

Thinkbit did not originate with journalist

The "Thinkbit" of Dec. 9, 1994, stated that "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting, it has been found difficult and left untried." Somehow I recognized that statement, even though I did not read Michael Coren's "original statement" in the *Globe and Mail* (no national newspapers in Fairview!).

I read that statement about a decade ago, while researching a British Christian pacific organization. On a few occasions members of this organization attributed the statement to G.K. Chesterton. I have never bothered to verify their attribution (it was irrelevant to my research), but at least the "thinkbit" was known during World War I.

Can a *Globe and Mail* journalist be accused of plagiarism or is it an example of shoddy journalism?

Bert den Boggende
Fairview, Alta.

The statement was indeed made by British Catholic essayist and poet G.K. Chesterton.

Editor

Rates to March 31, 1995

RRSP	Regular Fund
7.5% appr.	7.5%

Your funds will be invested in Christian Reformed Church and Christian School building projects in Canada.

Call: (416) 461-1207 evenings or
Write: Christian Reformed Extension Fund
45 Harriet St., Toronto, ON M4L 2G1

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

Providing counselling in **estate planning, will making, insurances, Christian investments**, and **special giving.**

- *Free of charge — Confidential*
- *Public presentation — Home visits*

CSS

Please write: **CSS**, 455 Spadina Ave., #210, Toronto, ON M5S 2G8 or telephone: **(416) 598-2181**

"Give us your best shot"

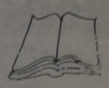
Prenuptial wolves

What do brides do half an hour before the wedding ceremony? If your name is (was) Karen Ypma and your matron of honor, Julia van Leeuwen, you and your friend gulp down all but one thick slice of a good-sized pizza with the works. Karen is now happily married to Erik Meinders of Winnipeg, where the wedding took place, report her parents Cye and Cathy Ypma. The couple lives in Thunderbay, Ont. By the way, the ceremony went off without a burp.

Book Review

Willimon struggles with true significance of evangelism and preaching

Media / Arts



The Intrusive Word: Preaching to the Unbaptized

by William H. Willimon. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans, 1994. 142 pp. Reviewed by John Tenyenhuis, pastor of Rehoboth Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, Toronto.

This book will help you think and feel more deeply about the Gospel; it's that good. But it's not going to say much about a method or methods of evangelism, as its enticing subtitle seems to promise.

Willimon lets the reader in on his struggle to get closer to the true significance of evangelism and preaching. He also does what few do when writing about preaching and evangelism: he presents seven of his own sermons that purport to do what he hopes all sermons do — truly preach the Gospel.

If you are interested in methodology, however, or in conclusions about how preaching and evangelism relate, you'll be disappointed.

Imaginative and stylish writing

This is a playful book. By that I mean Willimon is able to write in a most interesting fashion, and draws you into imaginative and playful use of Scripture texts so that you feel their message and punch. The seven sermons alone make the book worthwhile.

The same wide-ranging imagination is carried into the rest of the book's six chapters. Willimon will not tell you about seeker services, or about worship and missions in terms of either the church-shaped mission or the missions-shaped church. I think he would say that this is a false dilemma. Instead he wonders: "Can we preachers respect the Gospel enough to allow people not to understand it? .... The Gospel itself, in collision with the corruptions engendered by life in a democratic, capitalist society, bears some responsibility for people not hearing" (p. 19). This analysis finds wanting church growth trends that have encouraged churches to accommodate a great deal to our culture in the hope of bringing the Gospel to those who would otherwise never hear.

Sermons too heady for beginners?

But Willimon's pre-condition for hearing the Gospel may discourage the kind of witness a church could give to its first-time visitors. Willimon says: "I must be trained to hear the Gospel, to ask the right questions for which it is the answer. A lifetime of skills will be required..." (p.43).

He is trying to think deeply about the culture in which we live, but he is not very helpful or encouraging to preachers trying to reach the lost with the simplicity of the Gospel.

It should be noted that Willimon is the dean of the chapel and professor of Christian ministry at Duke University, and that he regularly speaks to gatherings of Christian students at the chapel there. He expects, no doubt, that there are unbelievers and the uncommitted in his congregation. But his sermons presuppose too much biblical knowledge. I appreciate these messages but they are not really for unbelievers. The seeker who might hear Willimon's preaching and have an understanding of its message would have to be a long way down the road to faith.

Despite Willimon's at times astute analysis, the excellent style and gifted writing, he does not tell us how to preach to the unbaptized.

In the author's view, the preaching that is brought to the unbaptized will be the same preaching one does to the baptized. I think he caricatures somewhat those who preach a simple gospel or those whose goals are "seeker driven."

The book does contain an excellent reflection on universalism and a thoughtful discourse on evangelism. On the whole, I highly recommend it.

'Liberation' choir to commemorate WW II 50th anniversary

Marian Van Til

NORTH YORK, Ont. — A 205-voice Canadian choir has been formed as a way to commemorate the end of World War II and the "liberation" of the Netherlands on May 5, 1945.

The "Liberation Choir 1995" draws its membership from 55 communities based in Ontario. The majority of the choir are Dutch immigrants or their children; other members come from various European backgrounds. Many members experienced the Second World War first-hand, either as civilians in Nazi-occupied countries or as members of the Allied forces which fought in Europe and the Far East.

"Canadians are still very warmly regarded in the Netherlands, especially for their accomplishment of ending the occupation."

The choir will perform three concerts in Ontario (in London, Toronto and Hamilton) before traveling to the Netherlands for eight more concerts, some of them combined with Dutch choirs.

Choir spokesperson Hendrik W. Heeringa describes the motivation of the 200 choir members: "Through a series of concerts in Ontario and the Netherlands [we] want to show [our] gratitude for the Canadian Armed Forces who were able to set free those who [were] in the death-knell of starvation and oppression."

Dutch-Canadian connection

Bass choir member Henk Beintema, who emigrated from the Netherlands in 1953, further explains: "Holland had a close relationship with Canada throughout the war. Princess [later Queen] Juliana and her daughters Irene and Beatrix [the current Dutch queen] lived in Ottawa during the war, and Princess Margriet was born there. Canadians are still very warmly regarded in the Netherlands, especially for their accomplishment of ending the occupation."

On May 5, 1945, in Wageningen, Canadian Lt.-Gen. Charles Foulkes dictated surrender terms to the commander of the Nazi troops in the Netherlands. On May 5, 1995, the Liberation Choir will sing in the Hague, the seat of the Dutch government.

The choir's repertoire includes spirituals, hymns of praise and thanksgiving, patriotic songs, and the Dutch and Canadian national anthems. The group is conducted by Willem VanSuydam, himself a Dutch immigrant.

Artists, we need you!

CC is looking for original art work to grace a **50th anniversary poster.**

The poster, designed to be a keepsake and suitable for framing, will be sent out later this year to churches, church and Christian agencies and organizations, and Christian media. A poster facsimile will be used for a church bulletin cover, and as the front page of our special commemorative CC issue to come out in October. The poster will be available for a nominal fee for purchase by CC subscribers.

What we're looking for:

- visual images which allude to what, and who, we are and have been: including CC's Reformed heritage; and CC's 50-year-old Dutch immigrant history/experience.

What you should submit:

- a preliminary 10 x 10 inch, one-color sketch;
- your name, address, day-time phone number, (e-mail address, if applicable), occupation.

What you get:

- the selected entrant wins peanuts...er, no... $225 wide distribution of your work and name recognition (if you haven't already got it!).

Please submit your preliminary entry by February 17, 1995, to:
Marian Van Til, Associate Editor
Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Road
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1

Church, Marian Van Til, page editor

CRC committee recommends separate Canadian agencies, sending deacons to synod

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (REC) — The Christian Reformed Church in North America will consider major changes this year in its dealings with its Canadian segment. A committee to study CRC Canadian ministries is recommending that all CRC agencies establish separate Canadian operations.

The committee also recommends that the current Council of Christian Reformed Churches in Canada (CCRCC) be closed. Finally it urges the CRC to integrate the work of deacons into the governing of the church, including sending them to synod.

The committee believes these three steps are linked to one another. It considered some fine tuning of present structures, but finally decided the church's structures must better reflect its existence in two distinct countries.

In 1990 the CRC synod considered seven requests from its Canadian members to establish a regional synod structure so that Canadian members could focus on national questions. The synod rejected those requests but set up a committee to study it. In 1993 requests for a regional synod were again denied, and the present committee was established. This report will be considered at the Synod 1995.

The present CCRCC has no official status within the lines of government of the church. Instead, it acts primarily as a service organization. It represents the CRC in its contact with the Canadian government. It also serves in dealing with Canadian broadcasting, with relations to aboriginal peoples, and with racial reconciliation. These ministries, the committee judged, are diaconal ministries for the most part. Therefore, to represent the national interests of the Canadian sector, diaconal ministries should be represented in the governing bodies of the church.

Canadian law requires the CRC to be incorporated in Canada especially for receiving contributions for its ministries. The law requires that charitable giving be managed by a Canadian organization in order for the donor to receive tax benefits.

Of the 978 congregations in the CRC, 241 are in Canada. About 28 per cent of the total CRC membership lives in Canada.

Dutch church seeks ways to allow homosexuals to participate

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (REC) — The Netherlands Reformed Church (Hervormde Kerk) is encouraging its congregations to provide a safe climate for the discussion about homosexuals in its churches. The synod urged that both homosexuals and those who had objections should feel free to express themselves. It looked for a solution that would not place all homosexuals under discipline. Nor should objectors face the threat of having homosexuals present at the Lord's Supper forced on them, said the HKN synod.

Five years ago, the HKN urged its congregations not to discipline homosexual members on account of their sexuality. This year the synod is also allowing homosexual members to temporarily join a church outside their district. In this way they might find a church where there were fewer objections to them.

Synod executive member Y.C. de Groot said the new regulation intends to see that everyone has opportunity to share in the Lord's Supper. "This is a shameful way out, but it is the only way," de Groot said.

The decision made in November provoked a strong reaction. A few weeks later the synod sent a letter to all HKN church council officers to explain the policy. The synod said it wanted to open a discussion in which all members felt safe. Rather than disciplining members about this issue, the synod urged councils to make arrangements with neighboring congregations for some members to take the Lord's Supper. In some cases, the letter implied, this might be homosexual members, while in others these members might be those who objected to having the Lord's Supper with homosexuals present.

Japan earthquake damages Reformed churches

Missionaries and church members safe

TOKYO (CRWM) — The major earthquake which struck Kobe, Japan, last week killed thousands and damaged or destroyed hundreds of buildings. Five congregations of the Reformed Church in Japan (RCJ), with whom Christian Reformed World Missions works, suffered significant damage but no loss of life. The missionaries working for CR World Missions in Tokyo (about 300 miles west of Kobe) did not feel the tremor.

Rev. Richard Sytsma, World Missions field director in Japan, reported the following damage:

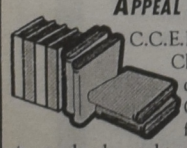
* The Ashiya church was destroyed and the parsonage was greatly damaged. Five members' homes were also destroyed.
* The roof of the Takatsuki church caved in.
* The Nagata church was destroyed.
* The parsonage of the Koshien church was destroyed; the sanctuary is intact.
* Internal walls toppled at the Shinko church.

"Many other churches have reported damage to contents," Sytsma reported. "Structurally they are okay, but there is a big mess to clean up." The seminary in Kobe, which trains pastors for the RCJ, is basically intact, although the campus homes of two professors were severely damaged.

"More than 100 people have taken refuge in the seminary," Sytsma added. "They have no water, electricity, gas or food. Windows are broken and it is cold."

Christian Reformed World Missions has 14 missionaries and their families in Japan. The RCJ includes more than 135 congregations throughout the country.

APPEAL FOR HELP!



C.C.E.F. promoting Christian Education across Canada, and funding Christian textbooks, and teacher manuals, for the benefit of all C.S.I. member schools in Canada.

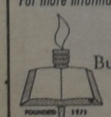
HELP US PUBLISH THEM.

Your gift is appreciated by thousands of students and teachers every time they open a Christian textbook.

Your contribution is tax deductible. Registered Charity No. 0455097-23

CANADIAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

For more information contact our Executive Director:



Fred R. Vander Velde
2621 Cavendish Drive
Burlington, Ont. L7P 3W6
Tel.: (905) 336-5619
(day or evening)

Hungarian churches accept some blame for Holocaust

BUDAPEST, Hungary (EP) — Protestant and Catholic churches in Hungary issued a public statement assuming partial responsibility for the Holocaust. The statement says that church members who failed to protest the killings were also at fault.

The statement, issued on the 50th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary, called the Holocaust "an unpardonable sin." It follows a trend among Christians to assume some of the responsibility for the annihilation of thousands of Jews. "Before God, we now ask forgiveness for this failure committed in the time of disaster 50 years ago," said the statement, issued jointly by the Hungarian Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary.

The Living Word
Sermons for reading services.
Contact:
R. Vander Ploeg Secr./Treas.
210 Clarke St. N.
Woodstock, ON N4S 7M7
Phone: (519) 539-2117

Prayer conference brings Haitian Christians together

GONAIVES, Haiti (EP) — A nationwide prayer conference brought 1,000 Haitian Christians together in mid-January to plant the gospel at the centre of their country's new future. Pastors, elders, and lay leaders from churches across the country were joined by workers with Youth With A Mission from more than a dozen other countries for the two-week event called "Haiti for Jesus," which began on January 16.

Participants prayed for the country, which is starting to rebuild after American intervention recently ended a three-year military rule.

"The church in Haiti has an opportunity for the first time ever to take a leadership role in the development and rebuilding of this nation," said YWAM leader Terry Snow. "We wanted church leaders to take a fresh vision back to their communities, and start the rebuilding of the church in this land."

Haiti For Jesus was held in the port city of Gonaives, where one of YWAM's Mercy Ships fleet made a second relief-supplies delivery during the event.

God's arrow and Halley's Comet

Al Wolters
CHAPTER & VERSE

"I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword. Then the Lord will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning" (Zech.9:13-14, NIV).

In my last column I dealt with the first part of this passage under the heading "The Clash between Jews and Greeks." I pointed out that it probably referred to the Maccabean revolt in which faithful Jews were pitted against pagan Greeks in a life-and-death struggle for the survival of biblical religion. The miraculous victory which the Jews won at that time is commemorated to this day in the Jewish feast of Hanukkah.

Readers of this column may remember that some time ago I wrote that the comet we now know as Halley's Comet made an appearance at precisely the time of the Maccabean revolt. I suggested then that the "brightness of the heavens" mentioned in Daniel 12:3 may be an allusion to that appearance of Halley's Comet in late 164 B.C.

But now I want to suggest that this verse in Zechariah contains yet another biblical allusion to the comet.

What are some of the reasons for this suggestion? Well, the chronological fit is perfect — at least if we accept the traditional interpretation that these verses refer to the Maccabean struggle, a struggle which was capped by dramatic success at the very time that Halley's Comet appeared.

Just a figure of speech?

Besides, my proposal gives a concrete and identifiable referent to the "arrow" in this text, which is usually explained as just a highly imaginative figure of speech referring in general to the help which God gave the Jews in their struggle against the persecuting Greeks.

A couple of other observations also support my interpretation. Many commentators read this verse as though it says that God sent forth lightning bolts like arrows, as often mentioned elsewhere in the Old Testament. But of course that's not what this text in Zechariah is saying. It's not the lightning bolts that are compared to God's arrows, but God's arrow (singular!) that is compared to lightning. The prophet seems to have in mind a single phenomenon in the heavens which appeared "over" the Jews.

For us Western readers, the comparison with lightning is also somewhat misleading at first reading. When we talk about a "lighting raid" or something moving "like greased lightning," we understand the image to emphasize *speed*. But in the poetry of the Old Testament, the image of lightning refers to *brightness*, not speed. If you check a concordance for all the places where something is said to be "like lightning," you will discover that they all refer to the brightness of shiny weapons or armor.

That is the case here as well. The arrow is a piece of God's armor as he fights as a warrior on behalf of his people. That arrow would have had a long shiny arrowhead of burnished bronze (some of these have been discovered in archeological excavations in Palestine). It would look remarkably like the shiny head of a comet. In fact, such an arrowhead is called a "lightning" (Hebrew *baraq*) in Job 20:25.

There is every reason to believe that the "arrow" of the Lord which the prophet Zechariah foresaw was really Halley's Comet, the symbol of God's mighty help to the faithful Jews in their struggle against the Greeks.

Al Wolters teaches Bible and Greek at Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ont. He recently gave a paper on God's arrow at a scholarly conference.

Church committee speaks out against anti-abortion violence

Bert Witvoet

BURLINGTON, Ont. — The Committee for Contact with the Government (CCG) has issued a press release on behalf of the Council of Christian Reformed Churches in Canada in which it deplores "all forms of violence directed at persons or properties associated with abortion services."

Committee member Reinder Klein said that the statement arose out of a concern that some Christians have praised those who committed acts of violence in Canada and the U.S. and the fact that some members of the Christian Reformed Church have taken part in anti-abortion activities such as blocking entrances to abortion clinics.

The CCG statement says that "while the Council and its member churches consider the intentional destruction of perfectly healthy fetuses a profound *dis*service to Canadian society in general and to individual persons in particular, they reject emphatically the use of violence as a means for opposing the deplorable practice of abortion." The statement invites women who struggle with problem pregnancies to contact the pastor of the nearest Christian Reformed Church for assistance and advice.

Russian Orthodox commission protests ecumenical groups

WARSAW, Poland (EP) — The theological commission of the Russian Orthodox Church's governing body has recommended that the church withdraw its membership from the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical organizations in protest of what it is calling continuing "missionary intrusions" in Russia by non-Orthodox churches. A French magazine said that the theological commission had called for the church to withdraw from the World Council of Churches and the Conference of European Churches, as well as from the Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe.

After a December meeting of the commission, a member stated that a final decision was pending based on consultations with other Orthodox churches outside of Russia.

The commission member, Father Aleksander, told Ecumenical News International that the theological commission's proposal for the church to withdraw from the ecumenical organizations might not necessarily mean complete withdrawal. If the recommendation were approved, the commission has recommended that the church retain an observer status in the organizations.

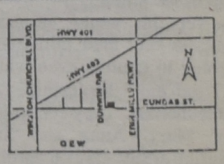
"The main reason for downgrading our church's involvement is the persistent missionary activity by our ecumenical partners which has continued despite all our previous requests and warnings," said Aleksander.

TIME FOR NEW FURNITURE?
Come and see our beautiful showroom with the European flair!

SCHRÖDER
●●●FURNITURE

... for that special item!

Our "coil" spring furniture has all the support and comfort you need.



Mississauga Dundas St. - 2 Blocks W. of Erin Mills Parkway (905) 828-9511

Feature

Rising from the ruins

My five-week stay in Russia (4)

Aren Geisterfer

After some weeks of travelling around Russia, I came to grips with the frightening reality that by the end of the Second World War (in late 1945) only four per cent of the men between 18 and 21 had survived. I had been told this before but I could not believe it.

A whole generation of young Russian women with their infant children has grown up without the presence of a male partner or a caring father for their children. Most of the young widows had had one or two children before their young soldier-husbands went to war, for Russians married young (and still do) — 18 for girls and 19 for boys. Then as now, marriage allows them to qualify for an apartment. It's the only way they can get a hold of some decent living space.

I had already noticed the absence of older men — I myself was looked upon as something rare. At first I thought it had to do with my beard and long grey hair. But I was told over and over: we don't have many old men. Most died young in the war, while many others ended up in the gulag.

AREN GEISTERFER PHOTOS

A group of women singing and collecting for a Ukrainian orphanage.

Yet the young mothers of Russia kept their faith and kept going to church, even when the church's leadership was treacherous. They reminded me of Mary, Anna and Simeon during Jesus' stay on earth.

When I spoke with some of these women through an interpreter, they witnessed to their strong trust in the Christ of the Scriptures, though Bibles are scarce.

When I asked about their children's faith, I was told of the KGB's spying on parents via the public school system. The children had been instructed to inform their teachers if their parents prayed or taught them about God. In turn, the teachers were to inform the local KGB. No one was to be trusted in Russia under the terrible, ruthless rule of Lavrenti Beria, the Soviet police chief under Stalin.

Thus the development of a catechism, a confession of faith, or a biblical understanding of Christ's teachings was all but impossible for the younger generation.

On both sides

I listened to the testimony of a woman in her early 50s who confessed to working for the KGB. It had all started at the end of her education. When she had graduated from university, she could get a job only if she volunteered her services to the KGB. She would inform on her co-workers, while she had already been spying on her relatives. She was given a monthly quota to fill.

Her mother, who worked as a superintendent in one of Moscow's many highrises, was also forced to work for the KGB. As a pleasant *babushka* (grandmother), the older woman became one of the KGB's foremost informants on what was going on in her section of the highrise. She became a bitchy and aggressive woman, feared and hated by the population of her highrise.

Her daughter, now in her 50s summed it up: "*You* were in the war," she said to me, for she knew I had been in the camps. "You were on one side while your enemy was on the other side. But I — we were always on both sides. We were fighting Nazi Germany while at the same time we were spying on and betraying each other to save ourselves from going to the gulag."

The beginning of healing

In light of such a situation, the West can better understand Alexander Solzhenitsyn. On his return to Russia two years ago he demanded that his nation repent and confess its sins publicly. Of course, we would say! But most Russians would say this is impossible.

However, such an "impossible" confession would be the beginning of healing in a nation which is still feeling it has been betrayed by its former leaders, and in which individual citizens still do not want to accept their responsibility for having been part of the grand surveillance network of the KGB.

At the end of her story the woman cried. With tear-filled eyes she looked at me helplessly. The pain and frustration, the shock and hurt she is still undergoing make it difficult for her to describe what actually happened. And the West has little time to hear what she is confessing, unconsciously confessing on behalf of Mother Russia.

Unspeakable suffering

As a consequence of the slaughter of a complete generation of males, there was a complete break down in male-female relationships. Many women could never marry, so they attempted to get pregnant one way or another. Adultery and unfaithfulness became a way of life to many women who hoped to bear a child. Though the West has suffered much at the hands of its former enemies, it has in no measure suffered as deeply as has Russia (and perhaps, China).

At the same time the KGB continued to fill the gulag with people from all over Russia, women as well as men. They were forced to perform inhumanly hard labor, and the men and women were allowed no contact with each other. No woman could leave the gulag unless she was pregnant, but there was no chance of that happening unless male guards had raped her. Many women suffered terrible brutalities.

A mother with children begging near the Bolshoi theatre in Moscow.

A strange story

A pretty Russian woman told me that she had been conceived by her mother while in prison, though her mother had never had intercourse with a man. I wondered, what she was trying to tell me.

The young woman continued her story: one day she had discovered how her mother was able to get pregnant. Her mother had found a condom outside her camp and she had thrown it across a fence into the men's camp. A male prisoner picked it up, filled the prescription so to speak, and threw it back. The woman retrieved it an applied it to herself. She became pregnant.

Whether the story is true, I don't know, though recently I saw a CBC documentary which told a similar story.

Lost dreams

I was told that there is a 74 per cent divorce rate among the Russian population. Vanished are the dreams, hopes and ideals of many adults, while their children are often even more deeply hurt. According to the latest statistics (1986), the average Russian woman over 18 will have four abortions. That, despite the abortion rate having been brought down by the introduction of both the pill and better condoms.

The shortage of living space has not only deprived Russians of adequate privacy, but has created bizarre living conditions for some. On several occasions we met divorced couples who after 10, 12 or 15 years of being officially divorced still live together in the same one-room flat, along with the children of their first marriage, their new partners, and the newborns of their second marriage or common-law relationship. (Common-law living is not popular, for most Russians prefer to be officially married.)

Russia, in this setting of social uprootedness, is crying for understanding more than for consumer goods. The West, meanwhile, seems busy trying to make Russia another "*free market economy.*"

As I look back on my journey to Russia I am reminded of my own failures, quashed dreams and lost hopes. What harm we are capable of doing to ourselves and others.... To see Russia so hurt by its own hand and confused by its own actions drives the arrow deeper into one's own flesh.

When I stood at the tomb of

Continued on page 11...

Feature

More than meets the eye

Art White

While packing the car for a touring holiday in the States, I noticed our plates were due to expire, a situation I didn't relish explaining to Canada Customs crossing back. What a relief it was to learn (toll-free) I could renew the permit en route, that day, at the Kentville office (whew!).

We arrived a little after noon. The office was an add-on to a hanger-shaped structure housing newly painted plow blades, several large trucks and a massive, mantis-like grader held arms aloft by an unseen hoist in the beamwork. Large faded letters on a steel side door indicated,

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATIONS AND RENEWALS

Inside, the line formed a large "J" around three walls of an austere, windowless room. A raucous fan blew directly on an obviously harried secretary, who sat half-turned into its draft while waiting for her balky computer to confirm some part of an ownership transfer she had just completed.

My confreres looked foot-tapping-testy or blankly-resigned. Most, I assumed, were missing lunch (or having it delayed) because of what I learned was a computer hangup at the head office and a staffing shortfall locally. Ordinary updating of information already on file (in Halifax) now amounted to original filings for everyone. I leaned on the wall and let my mind wander into a holding pattern....

Among the standees who caught my eye was a tanned, fit-looking, older man whose flat-topped haircut and jaw-set demeanour indicated a military bearing and, perhaps, a yearning for the supple years of a distant youth. Like the Sergeant Major I took him to be, his eyes sharply addressed the tête-à-tête clusters among us with an impatience and disapproval which seemed resentful of our small attempts at coping and neighborliness. The guy was intrusive and immediately unwelcome....

In the time it took to wait on four of us, six more travellers arrived to overflow our ranks, now doubling back from the door which someone had propped open to dampen the swelter. I'm sure I wasn't the only one to measure progress by where old eagle-eyes was in line (now third), constantly surveying us like so many misbehaving children. It wouldn't be long before we were free from his annoying, predator stare.

A young mother came through the door laden with children: an infant swaddled across her front in a rig which ill-fit her slight shoulders; a sweet-faced, blonde toddler tightly holding mommy's hand and a ragmop dolly; a rambunctious, bespectacled son tugging on her other arm, uncomfortable at the constraining prospects of our claustrophobic closet.

Someone welcomed her, another explained the delay. We looked at each other, brows raised, realizing her challenge (and our fortune!). How her heart must have sunk when she saw us. We all felt for her, I'm sure, especially when the ungainly boy broke away announcing, "I'm going to see the trucks...."

When the young mom returned with her family in reluctant tow, the old codger edged forward with that steely look in his eyes. "Miss," he said gruffly, "I want you to do me a favor, if you will."

"Stop judging by appearances and make an honest judgment."

Everyone looked his way: she surprised and wide-eyed by his directness, we not at all surprised and ready (all of us) to intercede and cut him down if he spoke even one unkind word about how she was managing her children.

"I'd consider it a favor if you'd take my place in line," he continued. "I'm sure no one here will mind. Please, take my place...."

The whole room was silent, even the secretary stopped typing to concentrate on the proceedings. I was dumbfounded and ashamed.

Dumfounded and ashamed for not having thought to offer my place in line; dumfounded and ashamed for the way I had "pegged" the elder gentleman.

"Oh, no, I couldn't... but thank you."

He gestured for her to take his place. She just looked at him, thinking about the offer, you could tell, but not moving or saying anything. *No one* said anything, not even the kids, all of whom were suddenly very silent.

"Go ahead, take it," said the fellow next to her. "He means it. Heck, I'll take it if you won't." We all laughed. Others joined in. "Go ahead... Do it... He *means* it... Really, it's okay...."

Our senior tried again, this time with a smile across the corner of his lips. "Look, I'm retired, with nobody to answer but me, and nothing to do the rest of the afternoon. You're being selfish. Let me do this. It'll make my day. Okay?"

"Yeah, don't be selfish," kidded the guy who said he'd take the place if she didn't. We all laughed again. She nodded an affirmation. The man gestured to his place in line and stepped her way.

"Thank you very much," said the blushing mother as the little brood, still surprisingly quiet, shuffled past their benefactor. We all smiled. We all relaxed and resumed chatting on about this and that. What a marvellous change came over us.

It was then I realized that even though he was smiling, old eagle-eyes hadn't changed the way he turned so abruptly and glared at the people around him. (Boing!) It hit me. He wasn't gruff, he was *hard of hearing*. He wasn't mean-spirited, he had *cataracts* (or some kind of vision problem). What we took (What *I* took) for curmudgeonly bad manners was no more than bad judgment — *my* bad judgment. I felt ashamed. Words of Jesus came to mind: "Stop judging by appearances and make an honest judgment."

After the young mother finished at the desk, she paused to put away the paperwork and gather her children, then circled back to where the old man stood erect and smiling. "You said it would make your day if I took your place in line," she whispered (loud enough for us to hear). "I just wanted you to know you've made my day, too. Thank you...."

The infant slung between them, she brushed his cheek with a kiss, as he awkwardly touched her shoulder (gestures which warmed everyone in the room). He bent to pat the blonde head of the angel holding her dolly, then stuck out an old, gnarled hand toward the energetic son who, without hesitation, grabbed a hold and gave it a vigorous two-handed shake (as only four year-olds can do).

We had a wonderful, three-week tour, visiting family and friends along a 4,000 km loop, with the motorman's advantage of lots and lots of driving time in which to dreamily ponder many spontaneous, recurring images of good pleasures and memorable people, starting, of course, with that first day at the DMV....

Rising from the ruins

...continued from page 10

the Unknown Soldier, remembering the millions who died — mostly young — in the last world war, I wept. I felt solidarity with them. Though I was never a soldier as they were, I was caught in the same maelstrom. We who had not yet reached adulthood were pushed and manipulated, forced into places in which we could not be ourselves. We paid for the sins of the "fathers."

The many young lives which once aspired to the future with much anticipation, sadly never arrived at the full age at which I find myself today.

AREN GEISTERFER

Aren at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow near the Kremlin.

I stood at that tomb as one who had survived the camps and escaped death more than once during the Indonesian war for independence. I had survived by the grace of the beloved, faithful and merciful God of our ancestors, who in Christ redeemed us and his entire creation.

I cried, as a parent would, for these young lives which never came to fullness. They died for a nation which was so cruel and merciless to most of its own offspring. They died for an ideology that defied the presence of a forgiving and loving Creator. They died in ignorance, mostly not grasping life's purpose, not knowing the God who came among us — incarnate.

May Russia and its former allies rise from the ruins of their self-afflicted wounds. And may the West learn from its own suffering that one cannot live by bread alone.

This concludes the four-part series.

Aren Geisterfer is the Christian Reformed chaplain at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont.

Calvin College presidential nominee chosen

Marian Van Til

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A candidate with a background in corporate business, international business relations and public international law and theory has been nominated by a search committee to be the next president of Calvin College. Dr. Gaylen Byker, 47, a western Michigan native who now lives in Texas, will be the single nominee presented for approval to the 1995 Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in June.

Byker is himself a Calvin College graduate (1973), as is his wife, Susan (Lemmen). Byker has a JD degree from the Law School of the University of Michigan, a master's degree in world politics, also from the University of Michigan, and a PhD in international business from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Byker is currently a principal of the Offshore Energy Development Corporation of Houston, Texas, a natural gas exploration, production and pipeline company which operates primarily in the Gulf of Mexico. He is the company's vice-president for development and hedging.

Byker says he "was formed by an amalgamation of the conservative Dutch Calvinist immigrant farmer tradition and the vibrant Christian intellectual culture that existed at Calvin College during the early 1970s."

School must address pressing issues

Though schooled in the faith from childhood, Byker describes his early faith as mostly intellectual. "It was not until age 22, after I had returned from Vietnam, gotten married and was attending Calvin," he says, "that I personally committed my life to Christ and claimed the promises of the covenant.... I was glad that I had learned and internalized so much about the Bible and Reformed theology."

Byker's vision for Calvin College "assumes that Calvin remains true to the Reformed tradition of historic Christianity and is successful to a considerable extent in addressing the 'pressing issues' in higher education": the marginalization of faith in academic circles and the secular skepticism about the possibility of doing credible Christian scholarship; the use of new technologies; "the two sides of the budget struggle: fundraising and cost containment"; maintenance of academic excellence; diversity of students and faculty; better utilization of the gifts of women and minorities; and student values and conduct.

Byker has visited more than 30 countries on business, speaking engagements and for personal visits. He lists his leisure interests as theater, geography, bicycling, cross-country skiing, upland hunting and dog obedience training. Gaylen and Suan Byker have two daughters, aged 22 and 16, and are members of New Life Christian Reformed Church in Spring, Texas.

Ontario Calvin student gets a 'special' scholarship

Lynn Bolt Rosendale

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — "It takes a special person to be really interested in special education," said Kathleen Morren. Morren can speak from experience because her daughter Patti spent 29 years under the care and supervision of special education teachers, aides and administrators.

Patti Morren, who was mentally handicapped, spent 19 of those years in a Christian education situation. She died in 1989. "Her Christian education was so important to her and to our family," said Morren. "We wanted to help someone at Calvin who was interested in helping people like Patti."

That's why Jay and Kathleen Morren established the Patti J. Morren Memorial Scholarship in honor of their daughter.

Senior Christy Berkelaar, of Williamsburg, Ont., is this year's recipient of the scholarship which is awarded annually to a student pursuing a degree in special education.

"Getting to know the Morrens made it possible for me to know who Patti was," said Berkelaar. "It made it so much more personal to me." The Morrens have enjoyed the personal contact as well which began at the scholarship dinner this fall. "We might not have taken the time and effort to get to know Christy if we hadn't met her there," said Kathleen. "But getting to know her there has made it a more personal thing for us and we have found that Christy is a very special person."

Berkelaar has found the scholarship to be very inspiring to her studies.

"When someone else is investing something in you, it's encouraging," she said. "There is someone out there who sees my calling as worthy; someone else who believes in me. That's a really wonderful thing to know."

Renew your CC subscription now!

Our Circulation Manager is at her job every day trying to keep our subscriptions up to date. We spend thousands of dollars each year in postage sending out renewal notices, reminders, etc. To top it off, Canada Post charges us an extra fee for using the handy business-reply envelopes we make available. **This means that in order to get a subscription renewed we have to pay close to $1.00 in postage alone!**

The computer label on your *Christian Courier* copy shows the month in which your subscription is due. If your label shows that your subscription is due two or three months from now, *kindly consider sending us the renewal fee ahead of time*. This way, you will be assured that C.C. will be coming to you regularly, as well as saving us time and postage expenses!

Be an early bird! We appreciate your co-operation. Please use the coupon below when sending us your renewal fee.

COUPON

Please renew my C.C. subscription for the period indicated:
- ❑ one-year renewal. Enclosed is $39.50 ($32.00 U.S.)
- ❑ two-year renewal. Enclosed is $74.00 ($60.00 U.S.)
- ❑ three-year renewal. Enclosed is $111.00 ($90.00 U.S.)

Name _____
Address _____
City/Town _____
Code _____

P.S. If possible, glue your label in this space, or enclose it. Send to: **4-261 Martindale Road, St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1**

The King's to get pipe organ

EDMONTON (TKUC) — The organ program at King's (the largest in western Canada) has long been in need of a pipe organ for teaching and practising purposes. Last month the College received the welcome news that a supporter has generously offered to fund the installation of a 12-stop pipe organ in the performance hall.

Quebec organ builder Letourneau (who also built the West End Christian Reformed Church organ) will build and install a mechanical action instrument with two manuals and a pedal division for a total of 734 pipes. A freestanding red oak case will be mounted on a moveable platform for ease in mobility and storage. Final voicing of the instrument will be done in the hall to match the resonant acoustics of the building.

Although not equipped for large-scale symphonic organ music, the instrument will be fine for most organ music, chamber music, for regular lunch hour concerts and as accompaniment for the choir and chapel services as needed. It will complement the Glen Gould concert grand piano and Sabbatil harpsichord already in the performance hall.

Hike wages 3.6%, says Christian school group

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (CSI) — According to CSI's recently released *Compensation Report for Christian Schools 1995-96*, the average maximum salary of teachers in U.S. CSI schools is $30,312 (US). For a first-year teacher the average salary is $19,104. In Canada the average top salary is $43,400 Cdn. and the average beginning salary is $26,306 Cdn.

CSI is recommending a 3.6 per cent increase in staff salaries for 1995-96. Copies of the report have been sent to all CSI schools.

Environmental Housekeeping

A thorny solution to pollution

John Wood

John R. Wood

The pain of a thorn prick is all out of proportion to the size of the thorn. Sometimes there's a fleeting sting, but often a sharp pain seems to fill up one's finger and run into the hand or even up the arm. On the Pacific coast in the California ecoregion where I grew up, the Himalaya blackberry bushes live up to their fearsome reputation. If you let them go for a year or two, they tower over your head and will lean on any available support. I can still feel the sting and see the blood flowing from the deep scratches on my forearms where leather gloves didn't protect me. We would often say we were "going out to get rid of some blackberry bushes." But it was less "getting rid of" them, than simply holding them at bay for a season. They would be back next year reminding us once again of our human condition.

"The hidden environment of the human spirit," Vera Shaw writes, "is seldom mentioned in a concern for our more obvious environmental problems." I find Shaw's recent book, *Thorns in the Garden Planet: Meditations on the Creator's Care* (Thomas Nelson Publishers) a fresh reminder of this truth.

It is easy to become caught up in the daily reports of environmental events and see only these details. To do so is to miss what is actually at stake. Creation and our relationships are closely tied together in the Scripture. The ebb and flow of our spiritual lives is reflected even in the natural world around us. We can't keep it inside; wickedness will spill out like those rampant blackberry bushes.

But we don't talk much about wickedness and the environment. It somehow doesn't seem proper. There it is though — a thorn prick reminds us that we are living on a twisted planet, one in which we must exercise all the skills a steward can wield to keep our actions from defacing creation, both human and non-human.

Three gardens on the 'Garden Planet'

There are three central gardens on the planet Shaw describes. Eden we know, and long to return to, but that way is blocked. The turning point of history comes in Gethsemane, where humanity was tested and only Christ was found sufficient. Without his death the blood from today's brambles would have little significance. "How does the crown of thorns," Shaw asks, "symbolize the pollution of both the inner environment of the person and the whole environment of the Garden Planet?"

Finally, there is an unnamed garden, the one "near the cross" where resurrection life was first seen. Together these gardens give a picture of God's plan for the restoration of the whole Garden Planet.

We need to be reminded that the struggle to be good stewards is not just about what we can see. It is also about what we cannot hope to hide, although we often try. The inner life springs up and our true motivation will out in the end.

Our society is stuck on technological fixes for its problems. We are looking for more information and better systems to remove the last vestige of pollution. If Vera Shaw is right, we must not overlook the real cause of our crisis. It is not that we have forgotten, or that we are ignorant of what must be done. It is rather that we are bent, twisted and in need of the touch of the Master Gardener. We need an inner transformation that will release us to serve each other and the creation.

I recommend *Thorns in the Garden Planet* to aid you in your meditation in this new year.

John R. Wood counts white-tailed jackrabbits near the campus of The King's University College in Edmonton each winter. When he's not doing that he's teaching environmental science at The King's.

New, improved cookstove in Nicaragua is environmentally friendly

AKRON, Pa. (MCC) — The "improved cooking stove" promoted for years by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) workers in Nicaragua is now "new and improved." No, it's not a marketing ploy. The "new and improved" represents an attempt to provide an even lower cost, environmentally friendly cookstove in an ever-worsening economy.

Serious deforestation in parts of rural Nicaragua made the improved stove popular — it uses only half the firewood of traditional stoves. But in addition to mud, its construction requires steel rods, cement and cement chimney pipes — materials now beyond most Nicaraguans' pocketbooks.

MCC worker Lawrence Tormey reports that he worked together with rural Nicaraguans to develop a cookstove fashioned exclusively from local materials — mud, pieces of clay roof tile, small rocks and a chimney of hollowed-out adobe blocks formed in a simple, homemade wood mold.

"Scarcity and co-operation were the mother of invention," comments Tormey, of Colonial Heights, Va., and most recently of Philadelphia, Pa., where he is a member of Covenant Community Church.

Rainforests: going, going, gone?

(Source: Greenpeace Calendar: "Stepping Lightly on the Earth, 1994'').

GREENPEACE

Forests once covered 80 per cent of the land on Earth. People began cutting down trees 5,000 years ago, but in the last two centuries we've cut faster than ever.

In the past 50 years alone, we have obliterated more than half the world's tropical rainforests. By the time you finish reading this article, 150 acres of African, Latin American and Asian jungle will be destroyed.

That means we chop, burn or bulldoze a tropical forest the size of Washington state every year. At this rate we'll lose them all by 2010.

Tropical forests are home to at least half the world's wildlife, including 90 per cent of our primates, two-thirds of all known plant species and an estimated 140 million people.

These rich and biologically diverse ecosystems have evolved over thousands, sometimes millions, of years. Forests act as "regulators" of earth's atmosphere, absorbing carbon dioxide and dispensing oxygen.

World's largest international World Heritage Site created

TORONTO (Canadian Scene) — British Columbia's million-hectare Tatshenshini-Alsek Wilderness Park has been officially designated as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The designation was welcomed by B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt and Canadian Heritage Minister Michel Dupuy.

The designation means that Tatshenshini-Alsek, together with adjacent parks in Alaska and the Yukon, forms the largest international World Heritage Site in the world — approximately 8.5 million hectares in size.

The B.C. government announced the creation of Tatshenshini-Alsek in June 1993. The park lies in the extreme northwestern corner of British Columbia, and is wedged between the Yukon to the north, and the Alaska to the west and south.

nelson insurance brokers limited
PERSONAL, COMMERCIAL & BUSINESS INSURANCE SERVICES
Ralph Toering • John Van Wijngaarden • Martha Bunker
453 Plains Road West, Burlington, ON L7T 1H1 Your Insurance Broker Understands
•Tel. (905) 526-8790 • Fax (905) 526-8795

WINTER VACATIONS
ALL -INCLUSIVE HOLIDAY PACKAGE
For prompt, friendly and professional service call
Irma VandenDool
(905) 562-3410
Travel consultant for
BRINKMAN TRAVEL ST. CATHARINES

W & H VOORTMAN LTD. ® TRADITIONAL FAMILY BAKING QUALITY GUARANTEED

Voortman

Over 40 Varieties of Fine Cookies

AMSTERDAM

KLM

1 week free car included from $568

RESTRICTIONS APPLY

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

Ont.Reg.#1145887

Book now for the April '95 Liberation celebrations!

VALENTINE TRAVEL

(905) 890-5333/Toll Free 1-800-268-6144

London (519) 472-2700/Toll Free 1-800-265-1141

St. Catharines (905) 935-9103

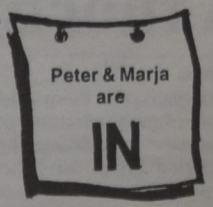
THE FARM SPECIALIST AND MUCH MORE

GREAT PRICES AND GREAT SERVICE ON FARM AND BUSINESS INSURANCE

MEESTER INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.

VILLAGE SQUARE MALL HWY 20 P.O. BOX 299 SMITHVILLE, ONT. LOR 2A0

PHONE 957-2333 FAX 957-2599 FREE 1-800-465-8256



Is life getting better or worse?

Dear P & M:

What do you think, is life getting better or worse? What I often hear and read from preachers (I'm a preacher myself) and from the media gives the impression that the quality of life in this world is depreciating: there's an alarming rise in cancer, the AIDS epidemic, broken homes, abuse, increased violence, environmental hazards, wars and famine, world economic recession — all of which gives me a negative impression of life in the '90s.

Then I was recently (pleasantly) surprised to read in our daily newspaper the headline: "Life is getting better." The story told about the United Nations' 1995 State of the World's Children report which claims more progress in human well-being has been made in the last 50 years than in the previous 2,000. For example, since 1950, average life expectancy has risen to more than 60 years from about 40 years, which, according to UNICEF executive director James Grant, reflects a wide range of improvements in income, nutrition, health care and education.

Adult literacy rates have doubled in the last 50 years to approximately 70 per cent. In the same time span the proportion of children who die before the age of five has been reduced by about two-thirds, to 100 per 1,000 live births. All of this is good news about the state of our world and human life.

I ask whether life is really getting better or worse partly because I feel that [in my preaching] I may be guilty of misleading my listeners to believe that this world is slowly going downhill. Maybe preachers have a vested interest in giving this impression, since the more alarmed people are about the future of this world, the more they may seek after the Lord.

Thanks for considering this question and may the Lord bless your ministry.

Dear Better or Worse:

Charles Dickens, writing more than a century ago, opened his novel *Great Expectations* with this famous sentence: "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." As we approach the end of the 20th century that observation still applies.

In technology, transportation, health, medicine and communications there have been tremendous advancements. Most of us would not want to go back to coal stoves, horse-drawn buggies and dentists who pulled teeth with pliers after an anaesthetizing shot of whisky. In numerous ways the quality of life *has* improved. Communism has lost its grip and Ireland is working on peace. Even our insights into human behavior have taught us to be more civil and loving in our relationships.

But human nature hasn't changed. Sin is still with us. The signs of the times predicted by Jesus would fit every century between his first and second coming. They are certainly present in this one! Our panel, for example, took note of the following indisputable and disturbing facts: the 20th century has been the bloodiest century in human history; the crime rate and incidences of violence have risen sharply; our means of destruction are unparalleled; teaching as a profession is much harder; and the environment is more endangered than ever.

The most significant change in our century is the role of the media. We are now in touch with the best and the worst of the human race wherever, whenever and however it is expressed. How news is reported has a huge impact on whether we feel things are improving or not. In the old days the press supported the status quo. Now the media has taken on a different role. It digs up garbage, exposes what was hidden and functions as society's watchdog. So we are confronted with more information and more dirt than ever before.

All of this means that we should be careful when we analyze the current situation. Depending on what you measure and how you measure it, you can paint a rosy or a gloomy picture. For that reason we would caution preachers, teachers and all other communicators to avoid sensational generalities. Instead, we urge them to be very specific in their evaluation of today's trends.

One thing is for sure. For the person who puts his or her trust in Christ, life is definitely better. Our responsibility, in the face of a world which *we* can't fix, is to broadcast this Good News.

There is a place for alarming people, but we would caution preachers against using scare tactics to try to drive people into the Kingdom, even if preachers do have a vested interest. That kind of tactic will not promote the celebrative life Christ desires for his people.

Write to: P & M
c/o Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Road
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1

Peter and Marja Slofstra are a pastor and wife team living in St. Catharines, Ont. They are assisted by an advisory panel consisting of Herman de Jong, Bill Lidkea, Tom Zeyl, Marian Van Til and Bert Witvoet.

Classifieds

Classified Rates

Births	$25.00
Marriages & Engagements	$40.00
Anniversaries	$45.00
2-column anniversaries	$90.00
Obituaries	$45.00
Notes of thanks	$35.00
Birthdays	$40.00

All other one-column classified advertisements: $13.50 per column inch. NOTE: Minimum fee is $25.00. Letter under file number $35.00 extra. Photos: $25.00 additional charge.

Note: All rates shown above are GST inclusive

ATTENTION!

a) *Christian Courier* reserves the right to print classifieds using our usual format.,

b) A sheet with information about an obituary sent by funeral homes is *not* acceptable since it leads to errors and confusion.

c) Photographs sent by fax *are not* acceptable. If you wish a photo included, send us the original.

d) *Christian Courier* will not be responsible for any errors due to handwritten or phoned-in advertisements.

e) The rate shown above for classifieds covers any length up to six column inches. *Christian Courier* reserves the right to charge for additional column inches at the rate of $13.50 per column inch (GST incl.).

NEWLYWEDS & NEW PARENTS

We offer a one-year subscription for only $20.00 (GST incl.) to the couples whose wedding is announced in the *Christian Courier* and to the parents of the child whose birth announcement appears in our paper. To facilitate matters, we encourage those who request the wedding or birth announcement to enclose $20.00 and the couple's correct address.

Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Rd.
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1
Phone: (905) 682-8311
Fax: (905) 682-8313

Personal

World War II

Who can supply a St. Catharines, Ont., resident with a complete set of Dr. L. de Jong's **Het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden in de Tweede Wereldoorlog**? Indicate price. Please reply to **File #2624, c/o Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1**

ONE TO ANOTHER

Christian companion magazine. Hundreds of readers Canada-wide. Single issue $5.

Write to:
#302, 1502-2nd Ave. S.
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4A2

Birthdays

VAHRMEYER:

Congratulations to Willemina Vahrmeyer on the occasion of her 90th birthday!

With joy and thankfulness to the Lord, we hope to celebrate the 90th birthday of our dear Mother, Grandmother and Great-grandmother

WILLEMINA VAHRMEYER

on Jan. 29, 1995, D.V.

We thank the Lord for the many years He has given her and we pray that He will always stay very close to her in the days ahead.

From her loving family:
Karel & Nettie
Mien & Cor
Bob & Betty
Joop & Kor
Riet & Dick
Thys & Tina
Bill & Tina
Ron & Audrey

37 grandchildren and 72 great-grandchildren. We are grateful for the loving care Mom receives at Shalom Manor.

Address: Shalom Manor, 12 Bartlett Ave., Grimsby, ON L3M 4N5

Job Opportunities

A senior gentleman, CRC background, in the Woodstock area requires a **full-time housekeeper/companion** with a valid Ontario drivers' licence. Some knowledge of the Dutch language would be an asset. Remuneration negotiable. Please forward inquiries and letters of interest to: **c/o Mrs. J. Van Laren, R.R. #1, Sebringville, ON N0K 1X0**

Obituaries

On Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1995, the Lord called home His child, our son, brother, brother-in-law and uncle

MARK BOEHM

in his 35th year.

Beloved son of:
Henry & Jane Boehm — Cochrane, Ont.
Brother, brother-in-law and uncle of:
Stephen Boehm — Vancouver, B.C.
Elizabeth & Gerald Wilson — Amprior, Ont.
Charles, Emily, Ian
David & Miyuki Boehm — Vancouver, B.C.
Mannfred, Asuka
Rachel & Peter Van Harmelen — Hamilton, Ont.
Erin
Thom & Chikako Boehm — Utsunomiya-city, Japan

Correspondence address: P.O. Box 518, Cochrane, ON P0L 1C0

Nes, W.D. Brampton
Friesland Ontario
March 20, 1901 - Jan. 13, 1995
Psalm 139:18

It pleased the Lord to take home His child

ANDREW DE BEER

Loving husband of Dirkje de Beer-Visser for 37 years (deceased March 7, 1965), and Klaske de Beer-de Jong for 17 years (deceased, May 9, 1985).

Predeceased also by his first born son, Freerk, two grandsons and one great-grandson.

Beloved father of:
Reinou & Siep Wiersma — Engwierum, Fr.
Fred & Margaret de Beer — Vineland, Ont.
Ann & Clarence Posthumus — Brampton, Ont.
Sylvia & Sidney Weening — Tottenham, Ont.
Tina & Bill Vander Velde — Dorchester, Ont.
Nancy & Joe Van Der Kooi — Bradford, Ont.
Mike & Rose de Beer — Jarvis, Ont.
Susan & Jim Verkaik — Bradford, Ont.
Dorothy Bell — Calgary, Alta.
Maria & Anthony Squadroni — Philadelphia, Penn.
Frances de Beer & Kevin Hebb — Exshaw, Alta.
Andy & Jean de Beer — Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear Pake of 56 grandchildren and 67 great-grandchildren.

He will be sadly missed by his step-children:
Shirley & Ralph Schotsman — Mount Hope, Ont.
Chuck & Donna Crans — Mount Hope, Ont.
Joan & John Elzinga — Hamilton, Ont.
Jack & Rita Crans — Cornwall, Ont.
Don & Anne Crans — Hudsonville, Mich.
Wayne Crans — Hamilton, Ont.
Henry & Jane Crans — Hamilton, Ont.

21 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Correspondence address: 22 Parkside Drive, Brampton, ON L6Y 2G9

Obituaries

July 14, 1928 - Dec. 25, 1994

"I lift up my eyes to the hills — where does my help come from?" (Psalm 121).

ROELF (RALPH) TEVELDE

passed away at the age of 66 years.

Beloved husband of Betty (nee Jonker), of Utopia, Ont.

Dear father of:
Richard & Cheryl Tevelde — Orillia, Ont.
Gelja & Rick Wegman — Utopia, Ont.
Marian & Mike Sheardown — Angus, Ont.
Randolph — at home

Loving grandfather of Steve, Shawn, Daniel, Heather & David, Christina, Sara, Robert, Gelja.

Son-in-law of Helen Jonker, Barrie, Ont.

Survived by his brother Mike and Grace, Owen Sound, Ont., and many relatives in the Netherlands.

The funeral service was held on Dec. 28, 1994, at the First Chr. Ref. Church, Shirley St., Barrie, Ont., with Pastor John Luth officiating.

Correspondence address: B. Tevelde, R.R. 2, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

Job Opportunities

Young person wanted with **experience in plant and flower business**, east of Toronto. Chauffeur license needed.
Call (905) 668-8545

For Rent

Bradenton Area, Florida. Mobile home, five star park. Available from Feb. 25, 1995, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Reasonable rates. Utilities.
Call (905) 459-3913

Teachers

HOUSTON, B.C.: The **Houston Chr. School** is an expanding school that needs to fill the following positions:

1. Principal/Teacher
2. Grade 11 teacher with area specialisation in English/Social studies
3. Part-time Kindergarten teacher

Interested teachers are encouraged to contact the school:

Houston Chr. School
Doyle Smiens, Principal
Box 237, Houston, BC V0J 1Z0
Phone: (604) 845-7736
Fax: (604) 845-7736

MAPLE RIDGE, B.C.: Haney-Pitt Meadows Chr. School is an inter-denominational school, currently presenting Christian education from Kindergarten to Grade 7. In September 1995 a Middle School concept will be implemented at which time Grade 8 will be added. We are now accepting applications for a **definite Grade 8 teaching position** as well as a **possible intermediate position** for the **1995/96 school year**. Please send resumes to:

Rod Berg, Principal
Haney-Pitt Meadows Chr. School
12140 203 rd St.
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 4V5
Telephone: (604) 465-4442

Job Opportunities

Care-giver/companion needed for elderly woman in **Mount Vernon, Washington area.** Live-in position. Please call Martha at
(206) 337-2125 (evenings)

Job Opportunities

Calvin College

The **Education Department** of **Calvin College** seeks candidates for a tenure-track faculty position in at least **psychology of education, introduction to teaching**, and **elementary supervision**. Responsibilities include teaching courses in these areas, advising students, supervising elementary student teachers, and providing leadership to surrounding school districts.

Qualifications include: 1) an earned doctorate (or ABD) in psychology of education or a closely related field; 2) K-12 classroom teaching experience (secondary experience is preferred); and 3) a scholarship agenda. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

Calvin is a Christian college within the Reformed tradition and is an equal employment opportunity employer. Interested applicants should forward a letter stating qualifications and vita to **Gloria Goris Stronks, Staff Development Committee, Education Department, Calvin College, 3201 Burton, S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49546.**

Classifieds

Job Opportunities | **Job Opportunities** | **Job Opportunities** | **Job Opportunities** | **Miscellaneous**

Holland Christian Homes
7900 McLaughlin Rd. S., Brampton, ON L6V 3N2

Position available for

Full-time Activities Assistant

Hours of Shift
60 hours every two weeks
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday
plus four hours extra one Saturday per month.

Qualifications
A certificate in a course related to activities and programming for the elderly is necessary.

Resume to:
Please apply in writing or send resume to **Wilma Wamsteeker**, Activation Co-ordinator, to the above address by **January 30, 1995.**

Grace Chr. Ref. Church
of Scarborough (Toronto), Ont.
is seeking a

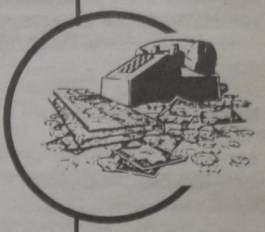
Qualified Music Director

on a part-time basis. Preferred qualification would include at least some of the following: Ability to play organ, piano, guitar, or other instruments; direct music ensemble and vocal groups. Organizational skills are essential.

Grace Church is a multi-ethnic church, desiring by means of a vital and diverse music ministry, to praise God and reach un-churched people for Christ. Please send resume to:

Grace Christian Reformed Church
25 Channel Nine Court
Agincourt, ON M1S 4B5
Attention: John Kamerman

Save money by using our Classifieds!



Emmanuel Home, Edmonton, Alta.

ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED
FULL-TIME POSITION

The Board of Directors of the **Christian Senior Citizens Homes Society of Northern Alberta** is seeking an **Administrator,** who will provide leadership for the day to day operations of the Emmanuel Home.
The successful applicant must have a degree/diploma or certificate in Geriatrics with a minimum of five years experience in a managerial position within the field of aging or equivalent combination of education and experience.
This individual will foster a spirit of co-operation among residents, staff, Board of Directors, professional and community agencies. A job description is available upon request.
Interested applicants must forward resume by **March 15, 1995,** in confidence, to the attention of:

Trudy Wolthuis, staff commmittee
c/o Emmanuel Home
13425-57 Street, Edmonton, AB T5A 2G1

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

Redeemer College

Your tax-sheltered nest egg... our campus financing.

1994 and 1995 Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) & Retirement Investment Fund (RIF) contributions and transfers of existing accounts are welcome.

Arrangements are simple: just write or call Redeemer College—we'll do the rest.

Phone: **1-800-263-6467** *(local: 648-2131)*
Write: *Stewardship Office, Redeemer College, 777 Hwy 53 E., Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4*

200,000 acres of Costa Rican rainforest now protected.

WWF CANADA

It's a start.
World Wildlife Fund Canada
1-800-26-PANDA

NC

DUCA CREDIT UNION

Full Financial Services

5290 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5R1 Phone: (416) 223-8502
Willowdale - Toronto - Rexdale - Etobicoke - Scarborough - Brampton - Orangeville - Richmond Hill - Newmarket - Oshawa - Bowmanville

Classifieds

Job Opportunities	Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous	Events	Miscellaneous

Pacific Christian Elementary School

invites applications for the following positions for the **1995/96** school year:

1. Grade 1 Teacher. 2. Counsellor. 3. Learning Assistance Teacher. 4. Assistant Principal (possible opening).

Interested applicants must be able to qualify for B.C. certification. For an application package, please contact:

Karen Vos, Principal, Pacific Christian Elementary School
671 Agnes Street, Victoria, BC V8Z 2E7
Phone: (604) 479-9365 Fax: (604) 479-3685

Psalter Hymnals falling apart?

Don't buy replacements, recycle them. We can rebind almost any book for a fraction of the cost of new, and the rebound books will last much longer than the original binding. Why not send us one of your church's hymnals or bibles and we will rebind it at no charge, just to show you how good your old books can look. Send your sample request on church letterhead with the item for binding.

Limit one sample per church. Normal price for quantities of five or more is $5.65. We rebind and restore all types of books, including personal and family bibles.

wbm Wallaceburg Bookbinding LIMITED
1-800-214-BIND

Advertise in our monthly **Business Directory** every second issue of the month.

Secretary/Receptionist

required by **London District Christian Secondary School.** Applicants will ideally possess a vision of Christian education; good telephone manner; strong interpersonal skills; word processing and computer skills; strong organizational skills and be detail-oriented. Previous experience will be an asset. A job description is available on request.

Please forward a letter of application and resume (including references) by **Feb. 1, 1995**,, to:

Mr. H. Kooy, Principal
London District Chr. Secondary School
24 Braesyde Ave., London, ON N5W 1V3
Phone: (519) 455-4360 Fax: (519) 455-4364

Ligonier Ministries Of Canada

"The teaching fellowship of R.C. Sproul."

Ask customer service representatives for:

- Our 48-page 1995 Product Catalogue: *Ultimate Issues.*
- Announcing *The New Geneva Study Bible* by over 45 Reformed scholars, including Sproul, Packer, Boice, Nicole and Waltke. **Hard back - $48; Bonded leather - $78; Genuine leather - $96** (in black, burgundy or navy). Note: Free sample pages will be supplied upon request.
- Our award-winning monthly devotional *Table Talk* for just $2.50 per month.
- Our 1995 national conference series. *Upon This Rock: The Nature And Mission Of The Church.*
- Our free, 90-question Christian Education Audit covering OT, NT, Theology, Church History.

Write, phone or fax us at:
Ligonier Ministries of Canada
350 Speedvale Ave., W., Unit 11
Guelph, ON N1H 7M7
Phone : 1-800-563-3529 or Fax: 1-800-5-SPROUL

Address Change

Please use this form and allow four weeks for processing request.

Attach your present label here.

Please indicate when new address takes effect.

Effective: _____

Name: _____

_____

New Address: _____

_____

City: _____

Province: _____

Code: _____

Mail to:
Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Rd.
St. Catharines, ON
L2W 1A1

Seeking a Pastor

The **Chr. Ref. Church, Collingwood, Ont.,** a vision-conscious, seeker-friendly church, seeks likeminded pastor to shepherd 55 families. Together we hope to establish a living relationship with Jesus Christ and exercize true discipleship by witnessing to and gathering in the lost. Church profile is available upon request. Please contact Linda Golby, R.R. #4, Stayner, ON L0M 1S0.

Phone (705) 428-6243 or fax (905) 951-2098

OUR RRSP's CONSIDER YOUR INVESTMENT RETURN, NOT JUST YOUR TAX RETURN.

We've helped over half a million Canadians make the most of their RRSP's by providing the highest standard of personalized service in the industry. Why not find out what we can do for you?

Tony Priamo

Clarence Weima

CALL US AT
(519) 455-3724
or
(1-800) 488-9817

Investors Group
YOU'RE WORTH MORE.
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

Our Reasonable Hope:
The Centrality of Apologetics for Ministry Today

Fourth Annual Conference on Contemporary Issues at Westminster Theological Seminary March 14-16, 1995

Speakers: Carl F.H. Henry, Charles Colson, Wesley Roberts, Peter Lillback

Seminar topics include: Media and Popular Culture, Friend or Foe? Why is there Suffering? Therapy and Faith? Developments and Applications in Van Til's Apologetics.

1995 is the 100th anniversary of Cornelius Van Til's birth.

For further information, please write:
Mrs. Ray Parnell, Assistant Conference Co-ordinator
Westminster Theological Seminary
P.O. Box 27009, Philadelphia, PA 19118
Tel.: 215/887-5511. 800/373-0119; Fax: 215/887-5404

Calendar of Events

Jan. 27 "Water to Wine: Celebration of Learning," CRC Chaplaincy 20th anniversary banquet for U. of A. students, past and present. Speaker: Dr. Deborah Stienstra. At 6:30 p.m., West End CRC, **Edmonton**, Alta. Contact Dr. Tom Oosterhuis at (403) 492-5327 or 483-8153.

Jan. 27 An evening of chamber music presented by The King's University College Chamber Choir (director: Trent Worthington), with Martin Riseley (violin), Michal Stolarz (flute), Mark Eeles (cello) and Michael Redshaw (piano). Works by Anerio, Morley, Bach, Schubert and Brahms. At 8 p.m., TKUC Performance Hall, **Edmonton**, Alta. Info.: (403) 465-3500.

Jan. 27 Organ concert by Christiaan Teeuwsen (works by Widor, Reger and Liszt), 8 p.m., Centenary United Church, 24 Main St. E., **Hamilton**, Ont. Tickets: (905) 648-2131.

Jan. 30 "Islamic Fundamentalism and Christian Fundamentalism: Differences, Similarities, Problems," a lecture by Pastor Dongo Pewee, 7:30 p.m., Senate Chambers, Brock University, **St. Catharines**, Ont. A panel of five responders will also participate. Sponsored by Brock Campus Ministries. Info.: (905) 688-5550, ext. 3134.

Jan. 30-Feb. 10 CSS's Harry Houtman in **Alberta.**

Feb. 2-3 ICS's "1995 Christianity and Learning Lectures," featuring Dr. Thomas Groome, Boston College. **Thursday:** 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. **Friday:** 10:30 a.m. Info.: (416) 979-2331.

Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11 Students of London Distr. Chr. Secondary School present the play "I never saw another Butterfly," by Celeste Raspanti, at LDCSS, 24 Braesyde Ave., **London**, Ont. Info.: (519) 455-4360.

Feb. 3 Organ recital by Matthew Ottaway, 8 p.m., Redeemer College, **Ancaster**, Ont.

Feb. 8 Second annual "Church and the Law" seminar, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Queensway Cathedral, 1536 The Queensway, **Etobicoke**, Ont. Last year more than 570 ministers and church leaders attended! The 1995 seminar is co-ordinated in conjunction with the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. Info. and registration: CCCC, Elmira, Ont. Phone: (519) 669-5137, fax: (519) 669-3291.

Feb. 17 Voice recital by Benita Wolters, 8 p.m., Redeemer College, **Ancaster**, Ont.

Feb. 17 "En-Route Day," at Redeemer College, **Ancaster**, Ont. High school students have an opportunity to discover RC. Info.: 1-800-263-6467, ext. 280.

Feb. 17-19 "Serving Christ in the Nineties" conference at Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre, **Niagara Falls**, Ont. Keynote speaker: Dr. Al Wolters. Theme: "Passing on the Reformed vision from one generation to the next." Info.: (905) 684-3991.

Feb. 23 OACSS's "Mass Band Festival," 8 p.m., Jubilee Fellowship CRC, **St. Catharines**, Ont. Tickets: $5 adults, $3 students/seniors, $12 family.

Feb. 25 "Meltdown!" - youth groups come to Redeemer College, **Ancaster**, Ont., for the 1995 Snolympics. Youth leaders are asked to register groups before Feb. 17 (1-800-263-6467, ext. 280).

March 11 The "Liberation Choir 1995" in concert, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Cathedral, 472 Richmond St., **London**, Ont. Info. and tickets: (519) 659-2907.

March 25 Combined concert by "The Hosanna Choir" and the "Mattaniah Male Choir," directed by Herman Den Hollander, accompanied by Andre Knevel and John Vanderlaan, 7:30 p.m, First CRC, **Hamilton**, Ont. Info.: (905) 648-6585.

April 1-8 Concerts by the 200-voice "Liberation Choir 1995" (director: Willem van Suydam), just before the choir leaves for the Netherlands! **Apr. 1:** 7:30 p.m., Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St., **Toronto**, Ont.; **Apr. 8:** 7:30 p.m., Central Presb. Church, 165 Charlton St. W., **Hamilton**, Ont. Info. and tickets: Toronto (416) 741-4815; Hamilton (905) 383-5856.

April 29/30 "And your daughters shall prophesy — celebrating our gift of voice," a conference of encouragement for women of the Chr. Ref. Church. Keynote address, workshops and worship. Location: CRC, **Richmond Hill**, Ont. Conference registrar: Janet Suk Roukema. Info.: (905) 451-8240.

ATTENTION

If you fax your display or classified ads to us, please type them and check spelling BEFORE you transmit the text.
Thank You.

'They don't need kidneys in heaven'

Jac. Geuzebroek

"They don't need kidneys in heaven." That's a line I once read on a wall in the kidney department of the Free University in Amsterdam. I read it again later in Toronto's Western Hospital. And remarkably, I saw it a third time at the Oshawa (Ontario) General Hospital. It is a kind of universal phrase that emanates from places where people are treated for kidney problems. I've spent my share of time in such places.

Transplants! Hearts, kidneys, lungs, eyes, skin — you name it. We hear about transplants so often that we might get the impression that all these organs are readily available. Doctors just need to phone the right place and they are immediately supplied with what they order.

Polycystic kidneys

This is far from the truth. Kidneys may not be needed in heaven, but here on earth they are desperately needed. Let me speak from personal experience.

Although it was not until five years ago that my only kidney began to seriously malfunction, the first sign of trouble occured in 1957. At that time, a doctor in Scarborough, Ont., found a growth on my left kidney, possibly cancerous. So he operated and removed the entire kidney. After the operation I was told that the growth was, in fact, not cancer. It had been a large cyst.

Nobody at that time spoke about my real trouble because they didn't know anything about it. They did not know that I was suffering from polycystic kidneys (*poly* means many). Doctors now know, and I know, that one can be born with cysts on either or both kidneys. Cysts like the one they found in me are found in babies, children, and in older men and women. And some people live with polycystic kidneys until they are 90 or so, never knowing they had the condition. Many, however, are not so fortunate. And the condition is not as rare as you might think. In the United States there are 600,000 people who suffer from it, and 20,000 in Canada.

The condition was carried from Western Europe (possibly France or the Netherlands) to the new world. Just recently researchers have found the gene

Jac. Geuzebroek

that causes polycystic kidneys. This means that they can now begin to work on a cure. Finding the gene was the first big step. Now they have to figure out how to "de-activate" it.

Three times a week

But until that is done, patients are kept in as good a shape as possible through dialysis, either *peritoneal* or *hemo.* These are strange words which I know from experience. First I was on peritoneal dialysis, an at-home exchange of body fluids through an implant in the body, performed three, four or five times daily. A month ago this was changed to hemodialysis (blood dialysis) at a hospital kidney department. Three times a week for four hours my blood is recycled through a machine beside the easy chair where I rest in the meantime.

Can you understand why doctors, nurses and patients are looking desperately for people who are willing to donate their kidneys after death? The need is great, but only a few people do it. Look closely at the inside of your driver's license. Did you know that you can donate any or all of your organs to help others? Your desire to give can also be expressed in a written document. It is possible to help patients, young and old, to be free to live normal lives again. Remember, in heaven they don't need kidneys — or hearts or any other body organs.

I have gone through all the tests for a transplant, ("We do not discriminate," they said), but the results were negative. I am 75 years old and there are not many kidneys available. For this reason we decided I could make due with the remaining kidney which has seen me through the first 75 years of my life.

But there are many others who are hopelessly sick and handicapped; children, young fathers and mothers, who can be helped if you are willing to help. Don't worry — they will not take any of you while you are still alive, or kill you for your body parts! If that were true, there would be an overload of organ "donations."

That others may live

Doctors take organs after a patient is considered brain dead (and they have the patient's or family's consent). You leave your body behind. Is not such a sacrifice to help others, from a body you no longer need, a small symbol of what Jesus did — he who gave himself as a sacrifice that we may live?

I have seen parents consent to donating the organs of their precious daughter who died. I have seen it done by brother for brother. I have seen it done by brother for sister. I have seen it done by people for others whom they did not know. There is a comprehensive referral system in North America through which doctors know immediately where an organ is needed.

It is easy to do your part; so please fill out your license or put your desire to donate in written form. And praise the Lord, for by sharing what he gave us patients can receive new health and a new life!

Jac. Geuzebroek is a retired Christian Reformed minister. He and his wife, Maria, live in Whitby, Ont.

Paul Martin tries to please financial techno-wizards

World news

Carl D. Tuyl

Right smack-dab in the middle of winter the temperature reached 19C at Niagara Falls. People there began appearing in shorts. Even the robins got confused, and some started to schlep twigs around as if it were nesting time.

★★★

Parliament Hill remained vacant because the House is still in recess. When the first parliament building in Ottawa was destroyed in the fire of 1916 the government had to convene in emergency quarters. Suitable accommodation was found in the Royal Victoria Museum. The Senate, it was noted at the time, met in a gallery with the following words on the door: Prehistoric Fossils.

★★★

At the Finance Ministry it's been crunch time. Everybody has been fidgeting around to get the budget together. Finance Minister Paul Martin is trying to please the international financial techno-wizards by chopping a chunk out of the deficit. He's squeezing loonies till they scream.

★★★

Alberta's Premier Ralph Klein has pretty well reduced that province's budget deficit to zero. A boom in the gas and oil industry was responsible for an $800 million windfall. That helped give the Alberta government the chance to do new no-deficit math. No such luck for the federal Finance Minister, who must worry about rising interest costs with just plain old math.

★★★

In front of me is a frayed front page of the *Toronto Evening Star* of Monday, Feb. 6, 1939. The headline reads: "Five Toronto Youths held in 4 Robberies." "So much for the good old days.

★★★

There is "war" being waged between New Brunswick and British Columbia. New Brunswick's Premier McKenna lured the whole Canadian administrative branch of United Parcel Service to his province with a little $6 million bribe in tax advantages. B.C., which wanted UPS, was not amused.

★★★

Constitutional experts gazing into their crystal balls are predicting the possible consequences of a Quebec separation. Some think it will lead to unthinkable chaos; others argue that it will be no more than a momentary shock to the national consciousness. Something like pulling a tooth, I guess — it hurts only for a minute. Somebody mentioned to me that Parizeau the separatist speaks better English than Chrétien the federalist. Interesting observation, that.

★★★

Ottawa is expecting a visit from President Clinton at the end of February. NAFTA will be part of the discussion, and I bet nickels to a dollar that Clinton will champion the cause of U.S. magazines whose Canadian editions are taxed unfairly, in the opinion of our neighbors to the South.

★★★

The *United Church Observer* really observes. This sign was spotted on a Ramada Inn in Minneapolis, Minnesota: "Lutheran Pastors Conference. Casino Opens at 7 p.m." Your correspondent also keeps an eye out for signs. I spotted this one: "Rivers of God's Delight. Coffeebreak Wednesday."

★★★

The Kuwaiti Air Force asked the Canadian Defence Department for a price on the training of 36 F-18 pilots. The price Defence quoted was $6 million per pilot. The Kuwaitis found that a bit steep and the deal fell through.

★★★

P.E.I. is in need of a leader for the provincial Progressive Conservatives. No volunteers have come forward yet.

★★★

Russia has not yet been able to conquer Grozny. Perhaps that says as much about the morale of the Russian army as it says about the tenacity of the Chechen defenders. Wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes and famine — the events of our time are like a wake-up call.

★★★

President Clinton has offered the Japanese help in dealing with the catastrophe in Kobe. Did any such offer ever come from Tokyo when California was hit by an earthquake? Those Yankees are a generous people. Always have been. The Japanese, used to the $6 apple, had opportunity to buy American imports at $1.80 apiece.

★★★

The Pope was in the Philippines where the mass he celebrated drew a crowd of between four and five million people. Now that's what I call a well-attended service!

★★★

Some customers always have complaints: Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is demanding that the United States either deliver the fighter planes it had agreed to let her country buy, or return the $650 million paid for them. "Planes or money back," Ms. Bhutto said.

★★★

On Jan. 27, 1945, American troops entered the Auschwitz concentration camp. It's an anniversary some people will never forget but which will be a very sensitive one in Germany.

★★★

Coffee is getting cheaper again, announced Douwe Egberts in Amsterdam. Maybe in Amsterdam, but I noticed Tim Horton's hasn't gotten the news yet. Still a buck where I had my cup.

★★★

The United Nations has published a report titled "Violence Against Women." Indifference of governments is one of the causes of violence against women, says Radhika Coomaraswamy, author of the publication.

bytes

There have been some articles and letters in recent issues of CC which made reference to the order of creation — some being first and others "second." I read again the Genesis account and I noticed that Adam was created after the creeping things. That does call for a bit of humility, doesn't it? Be kind to one another. Don't forget: all of us came after the creeping things.

Carl Tuyl is executive director of the Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care.

FROM COAST TO COAST

ENGLISH RADIO:

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Abbotsford-CFVR	7:30am	850
Burns Lake-CFLD	9:15am	1400
Kitimat-CKTK	8:30am	1230
Osoyoos-CJOR	8:00 am	1490
Penticton-CKOR	8:00 am	800
Port Alberni-CJAV	7:00 pm	1240
Prince George-CIRX	7:00am	94.3
Princeton-CIOR	8:00 am	1400
Smithers-CFBV	9:15am	1230
Summerland-CHOR	8:00 am	1450
Vancouver-CJVB	7:00 am	1470
Vancouver-(fm)	7:00 am	103.3
Vernon-CJIB	9:30pm	940

ALBERTA

Brooks-CKBR	8:00am	1340
Edson-CJYR	10:00am	970
Ft. McMurray-CJOK	8:30 am	1230
High River-CHRB	6:30am	1280
St. Albert-CHMG	8:00 am	1200

SASKATCHEWAN

Estevan-CJSL	8:00am	1280
Weyburn-CFSL	8:00am	1190

MANITOBA

Altona-CFAM	9:30am	950
Steinbach-CHSM	9:30am	1250
Winnipeg-CKJS	9:15am	810

ONTARIO

Atikokan-CFAK	9:30am	1240
Burlington-CING (fm)	8:00am	107.9
Chatham-CFCO	6:00 am	630
Fort Frances -CFOB	9:30 am	640
Guelph-CJOY	10:00pm	1460
Hamilton-CHAM	6:30 am	820
Kapuskasing-CKAP	9:00am	580
Kingston-WLKC	10:00am	102.7
Newmarket-CKDX	9:00 am	1480
Oshawa-CKAR	8:00am	1350
Owen Sound-CFOS	10:30am	560
Pembroke-CHVR	10:00am	1350
St.Catharines-CKTB	7:30pm	610
Sarnia-CHOK	7:30am	1070
Stratford-CJCS	8:45am	1240
Windsor--CKLW	8:30am	580
Wingham-CKNX	10:30am	920
Woodstock-CKDK (fm)	8:00am	102.3

NEW BRUNSWICK

Newcastle-CFAN	9:00am	790
Saint John-CHSJ	9:30am	700

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Charlottetown-CFCY	7:00am	630

QUEBEC

Montreal-CFQR (fm)	7:30am	92.5

NOVA SCOTIA

Digby-CKDY	6:00am	1420
Kentville-CKEN	8:30am	1490
Middleton-CKAD	8:30am	1350
New Glasgow-CKEC	7:30am	1320
Sydney-CJCB	8:00am	1270
Weymouth-CKDY	8:30am	103.1
Windsor-CFAB	8:30am	1450

FRENCH RADIO:
Perspectives Réformées

ONTARIO

Cornwall-CFIX	9:30am	1170
Timmins-CRCL	9:30am	620

QUEBEC

Montreal-CHRS	8:00am	1090
Valleyfield-CFLV	8:45am	1370

TELEVISION:
Faith 20-TV
(Monday to Friday)
Ontario 5:30am
on the Global TV Network
Check your local listings for cable outlets airing *Faith 20.*

Vision-TV
(every Saturday)
British Columbia ..... 4:00 & 7:00pm
Alberta ..... 5:00 & 8:00pm
Sask. & Manitoba ..... 6:00 & 9:00pm
Ontario & Quebec ..... 7:00 & 10:00pm
Nfld., N.B., N.S. & P.E.I. . 8:00 & 11:00pm

THE BACK TO GOD HOUR

P.O.Box 5070, Burlington,ON
L7R 3Y8 (905) 336-2920

The Netherlands is Europe's distribution centre

THE HAGUE, the Neth. (Agri-Holland) — The Netherlands has been chosen by more than 700 companies from all parts of the globe to serve as their European distribution hub. Some companies simply want to store their goods so they are quickly accessible to the buyer. Other see these distribution facilities as a place to profit from global sourcing and modify their products for various regional markets just prior to delivery.

As a central distribution point, Holland serves as Europe's distribution centre (EDC). The Dutch market share for EDCs of major American and Japanese multinationals is practically 40 per cent. A central European distribution centre gives complete control over all logistics operations in Europe. Savings in expenditures and the benefits of central distribution are also clearly discernible.

Although it is only a tiny spot on the world map, Holland wields influence out of all proportion to its land-mass. It accounts for 7.7 per cent of the world's trade in agro-products, compared with the U.S. 13.7 per cent and within Europe the share rises sharply to 23 per cent, equivalent to some $122 billion a year.

The food industry accounts for 27 per cent of total manufacturing output and employs 17 per cent of the industrial work-force.

CC FILES

Rotterdam: the world's largest seaport.

The Dutch are one of the world's biggest importers of raw materials like animal feed, vegetable fats, fruits, coffee and cocoa beans. Amsterdam is the world's number one cocoa transhipment port, with 550,000 tons traded through each year.

Situated on the North Sea, commodities from any country anywhere can be easily received at one of the country's five seaports, including Rotterdam: the largest in the world, handling over 282 million tons of cargo in 1993.

The Netherlands can also accommodate companies closer to their final destination. Its second largest port, Amsterdam, is a major fast growing European seaport in its own right.

The largest European rivers and more than 3,000 miles of waterways merge in Holland. Approximately 53 per cent of all traffic on the rivers Rhine and Meuse originates from Holland. From there the world's largest inland fleet (more than 6,000 vessels) transports a constant and growing stream of goods and materials around 260 million tons a year to the rest of Europe.

By air

Holland has six airports. It is, however, Amsterdam-Schiphol Airport which has become synonymous with distribution. Currently handling some 775,000 tons of cargo annually, it offers 180 freight destinations worldwide, served by eight airlines. Schiphol is Europe's third busiest cargo airport and first in terms of growth.

Protecting a language called Kannada

DELHI, India *(The Economist)* — The people of Karnataka state are proud of their regional language, Kannada. Their pride led to the deaths of 23 people in riots in Bangalore, the state capital, last October.

The riots were triggered by a proposal to broadcast ten minutes of news in Urdu on the government television channel.

Elections to the state assembly were to take place the next month. The newscast was seen as an attempt by the ruling Congress Party to win the votes of Muslims, many of whom speak Urdu.

This is a state where even the dubbing of Hindu television serials into Kannada caused a storm. Critics argued that instead of just adding a subtext the serials should have been completely redone in the Kannada language.

The Urdu broadcast was thought to be a move by the government to cut into the time given to Kannada-language broadcasts. The government feebly protested that the ten-minute broadcast would be in addition to Kannada language time.

Urdu is not exclusively a Muslim language, and many of India's most famous Urdu poets have been Hindus. But Urdu is the official language of Pakistan, and this has made the issue even more emotional than usual.

The question of an Urdu language broadcast would at one time have been debated in the state assembly. Today such issues are settled by violence in the streets.

They pulled rank!

A church council was having a difficult time holding on to its own stash of ground coffee. Seems every group in church wanted to use council's supply. The problem was finally solved when the custodian wrote on the coffee can lid: "Council Only — Holy Grounds." And on the powdered milk he wrote: "Council Only — Holy Cow."

Submitted by former CC editor Keith Knight of Wallaceburg, Ont..

News Digest

Blinding weapons considered inhumane

GENEVA, Switzerland — Sweden and the International Committee of the Red Cross are working together to insert into the Inhumane Weapons Convention a statement that says that the use of blinding weapons is forbidden.

One weapon that would fall into that category is a laser gun which could blind large numbers of people at a range of many miles.

The blinding instruments now heading towards military use are clean, silent, light-weight and fairly cheap, reports the *Economist*. They employ a technique which concentrates light in high-energy beams.

The new laser weapons can scan a battlefield with an invisible beam of light which, at a kilometre's distance will have grown to a width of at least 50 centimetres. Anyone whose eyes it hits will be blinded; the beam burns the retina and the optic nerve.

Slave tree witnesses celebration of freedom

GEORGE, South Africa — Christmas '94 was different from previous Christmases in this predominantly Afrikaner town, reports John Plaatjes.

There was a spirit of goodwill and co-operation as Black and Colored choirs joined White choirs in churches formerly reserved for Europeans only. All three races joined to put on an impressive open-air Christmas pageant. Music, drama and festive dancing illustrating the Christmas message were mixed with the Bible message.

What was significant was that all this took place in front of the town's infamous Slave Tree. The Slave Tree witnessed the auctioning off of slaves until 1833. Now it is appropriately used as a symbol of peace, freedom and forgiveness.

White, colored and black hands were raised as the crowd sang familiar Christmas carols and "God bless Africa and heal our land."